

I. Pain Often Isolates (1-5)

- A. People can fail you (1-2) - “Then Job answered and said: How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words?”
- B. People may accuse you (3-4) - “These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? And even if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself.”
- C. People will misunderstand you (5) - “If indeed you magnify yourselves against me and make my disgrace an argument against me...”

II. Pain Frequently Insinuates (6-12)

- A. That God opposes you (6) - “Know then that God has put me in the wrong and closed his net about me.”
- B. That God is ignoring you (7) - “Behold, I cry out, ‘Violence!’ but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice.”
- C. That God is toying with you (8-10) - “He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and He has set darkness upon my paths. He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head. He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, and my hope has He pulled up like a tree.”
- D. That God has rejected you (11-12) - “He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as His adversary. His troops come on together; they have cast up their siege ramp against me and encamp around my tent.”

III. Pain Relationally Humiliates (13-19)

- A. Family cannot help (13-14a) - “He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. My relatives have failed me...”
- B. Friends move on with their lives (14b) - “...my close friends have forgotten me.”
- C. Roles can become reversed (15-16) - “The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy.”
- D. Intimate relationships become strained (17-19) - “My breath is strange to my wife, and I am a stench to the children of my own mother. Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me.”

IV. Pain Loudly Communicates (20-27)

- A. Your limitations are punctuated (20) - “My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.”
- B. Your desperation is punctuated (21-22) - “Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?”
- C. Your testimony is punctuated (23-24) - “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!”
- C. Your theology is punctuated (25-27a) - “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”
- D. Your reality is punctuated (27b) - “My heart faints within me!”
Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” - Proverbs 13:12