

Chapter 3

Job chapter 3 demonstrates to us clearly through Job that suffering wears on us

Job 3 is the darkest chapter in the book of Job. It shows us that Job is human. In chapters 1-2 we might find it difficult to relate to Job. Chapter 3 puts us on the same plane with Job and our feelings of despair in suffering.

Are you aware that 20% of the human race has considered suicide at some point. Like Job we say, **"Would it not have been better if I had not been born"**

Job's friends set out to comfort him in his loss. The news of Job's troubles traveled quickly. Job had a renowned reputation. The news of Job's troubles gets out fast.

As I read chapter 3 I am reminded... **"Pain leads to freedom because deep suffering leads to greater surrender."**

Pain and suffering are designed to get us to let go of the things we hold onto more than God.

Question: Are you going through a painful season in life right now? What is God prying from your hands to get you to let go of that you are holding onto more than Him?

God will use whatever means necessary to set us free from our idols. (idolatry)

Job makes broad sweeping statements in his pain in chapter 3. Job just says what we wish we could say but don't say out of how we fear people will perceive us. He says what we are feeling or have felt at some point in time.

"Depression"

1866, Charles Spurgeon shocked his 5000 listeners in London's Metropolitan Tabernacle when he taught from Isaiah 41, I have to speak today to myself and while I will endeavoring to encourage those who are distressed and downhearted, I shall be preaching I trust to

myself for I need something that will cheer my heart, why I cannot tell wherefore I do not know, but I have a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of satan to buffet me, my soul is cast down within me, I feel as I would rather die than live, all that God has done by me seems to be forgotten, and my spirit flags and my spirit breaks down and I need your prayers."

The Prince of Preachers

Martin Luther, suffered from such fits of darkness he would hide himself away for days, "for more than a week I was as close to the gates of death and hell as one can be, I trembled in all my members and Christ was wholly lost to me, I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy of God."

John Knox... the great reformer prayed, "Receive my spirit and put an end to my miserable life"

Adiniah Judson... America's first foreign missionary, suffering a deep depression after

his wife's death wrote, "God to me is the great unknown.. I believe in Him but I cannot find him"

Jeremiah the prophet, "cursed be the day I was born"

Elijah, suffering depression wrote, "It is enough Lord, take my life, I am no better than my fathers."

Moses and Elijah, the two men we see with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration both broke under the strain of their ministry and wished they might die.

Dictionary definition...Depression is described as more than a case of the blues. Its more than having a bad day.

Depression is embodied emotional suffering. It takes over your body.

Signs of a severe episode of depression include, unfounded negative evaluation of

friends and family and ones self, emotional pain, physical problems like lethargy, difficulty in getting your thoughts together, virtually no interest in your surroundings.

The reality of depression

More than 1 in 20 american adults are treated for depression in their lifetime.

17% or almost 40 million adults report a major bout of depression in their lifetime

Major depression is the #1 cause of disability world wide.

Depression and the disease cost causes almost 60 Billion dollars annually in lower worker productivity and work place absenteeism each year.

Depression is called the "**Common Cold Of The Soul**"

You are not immune.

National Institute of Mental Health. If you have 4 of these symptoms you should seek someone to talk too about them and why you have them.

loss of interest usual activities
feeling of guilt, worthlessness and
hopelessness
weight gain or loss
sleep disturbances
depressed mood
hyperactivity
leathergy
slow thinking
memory loss
suicidal thoughts

Job got a 100% on this test. He suffered from them all.

Job 23:10, "**But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come forth
as gold.**"

Job 42:5-6, "**I have heard of You by the**

**hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees
You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in
dust and ashes."**

Job 3 gives us the most profound declarations of depression. In chapter 3 we see Job standing naked before God. Everything Job could have counted on has been stripped away. Job is despairing of his life. At this point Job only knows pain and suffering. Physical pain, emotional pain and spiritual pain. We are not left to

Fewer things are harder to bear than meaningless suffering. If we could understand why we are going through what it is we are suffering we might be able to bear it, but pointless suffering just takes the life right out of us.

In chapter 3 we see a new trial has taken over. In chapters 1-2 Job was able to weather the storm but now the battle ground has shifted, Job's soul is now under attack.

Proverbs 18:14, "The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?"

In chapter 3 Job begins to lament. He is in full depression.

Chapter 3 is made up of three laments. (A passionate expression of sorrow)

1. "Why Was I Even Born?"
2. "Why Did I Survive?"
3. "Why Am I Alive?"

1. The first lament, "Why Was I Even Born?"

Job 3:1-10

1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

2 And Job spoke, and said:

3 "May the day perish on which I was born,

And the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.'

We celebrate birth days. Days are associated with the birth of people into this world and here Job is saying not only do I wish the I had not been born, I wish the day we disappear too so there is no remembrance of the event.

The ultimate statement Job is making is may the night of my conception be gone as well.

Job recognizes life begins at conception.

4 May that day be darkness; May God above not seek it, Nor the light shine upon it.

5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.

6 As for that night, may darkness seize it; May it not rejoice among the days of the year, May it not come into the number of the months.

7 Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it!

**8 May those curse it who curse the day,
Those who are ready to arouse Leviathan.
9 May the stars of its morning be dark; May
it look for light, but have none, And not see
the dawning of the day;
10 Because it did not shut up the doors of
my mother's womb, Nor hide sorrow from
my eyes."**

He wants his the announcement of his birth to be blotted out. Job has lost his perspective of God, Job is so broken, he is over reacting, he is losing sound judgment, a twisted perception of reality, a distorted view of God and when believers become discouraged over time they draw wrong and exaggerated conclusions.

**Job 6:3, "For then it would be heavier than
the sand of the sea-- Therefore my words
have been rash."**

Job recognizes he spoke in a way that he should not have spoken. His words were rash. He spoke words he should not have spoken.

2. The second lament, "Why Did I Survive?"

Job 3:11-12

11 "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?

12 Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

if all these tragedies were going to happen to me, why did God even allow me to survive my birth?

The term “knee” speaks of a Hebrew custom, a child was placed on the fathers knee

In Job 3:13-19 Job has uninformed concept of death.

Job 3:13-19

13 For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; Then I would have been at rest

14 With kings and counselors of the earth,

**Who built ruins for themselves,
15 Or with princes who had gold, Who filled
their houses with silver;
16 Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn
child, Like infants who never saw light?
17 There the wicked cease from troubling,
And there the weary are at rest.
18 There the prisoners rest together; They
do not hear the voice of the oppressor.
19 The small and great are there, And the
servant is free from his master.**

Remember, this is the earliest book of the bible and Job doesn't understand death the way that we do who have the full revelation of God in scripture.

Job sees death as a hopeful relief from all that he has been suffering. He thinks death might help him recover all that he has lost. Job thinks death is the end of life, annihilation.

Remember, the bible is a **progressive revelation**. What is hidden in the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.

What is concealed in the Old is revealed in the New!

Job is wrong about death. Death is not an annihilation, it's not an escape from the problems of life. Death brings us into the very presence of God.

Suicide isn't the right option though 20% of the human race has considered suicide. At some point I think the number is much higher if we consider most all have asked ourselves the question, **"Would it not have been better if I had not been born"**

With suicide there is no time to reflect, to change your mind.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

God loves you and there is hope for you. The devil wants you to curse God and die. Who are you going to believe. No one is beyond the reach of a loving God.

Life after death. In the end of Job, Job will come back around. Notice what Job declares in Job 19.

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

3. Jobs third lament. "Why Am I Alive?"

Job 3: 20-26, its the common lament

If I had to be born and I didn't die at child birth why can't I just die now?

Job asks the question why? it's OK to ask why.

Jesus asks the question **"why have You forsaken Me"**

It's not wrong to ask "why questions", What is wrong is expecting God to answer our why questions. God did not answer Job, God didn't answer Jesus on the Cross. Don't be surprised if He doesn't answer you.

We learn quickly our "why" questions are nothing more than substitutions for trust. We wouldn't understand the answer even if God was to provide one. What we need more than answers is peace and Jesus came to provide that for us!

Job 3:20-26

**20 "Why is light given to him who is in
misery, And life to the bitter of soul,
21 Who long for death, but it does not come,
And search for it more than hidden
treasures;
22 Who rejoice exceedingly, And are glad
when they can find the grave?**

23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, And whom God has hedged in?

24 For my sighing comes before I eat, And my groanings pour out like water.

Job is not talking about suicide in these verses, Job is simply thinking out loud as to why God hasn't just taken him, why won't God just take him out of his pain. Job can't figure out the purpose of his life. Everything is gone. You don't have to be a brain surgeon to understand why Job is depressed.

25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.

26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes."

You will notice that here in chapter 3 Job never grieves the loss of his possessions.

Job is pained by the perceived loss of God's presence in his life.

That perception is the cause of his pain and

anguish.

Job is saying ***I would rather not live if living means living without the presence of God in his life.***

This is important. Job is lacking the presence of God. If the foundation of your happiness is your things, what you have, who you know, what positions you have in life, then suffering will pull you away from the foundation of your happiness. When you suffer you are being pulled away from what you love.

If God is your source of joy then your suffering will drive you deeper into your source of joy. Job's suffering is driving him deeper into his relationship with God.

The book of Job will end with Job knowing God is with him. Job knows about God with the hearing of his ear but in the end Job is declaring now I know You by experience. I have seen for myself.

Job 42:5, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You."

It's also important to note that Job Chapters 1-3 are a condemnation against the health and wealth and prosperity doctrine of our day.

Those that teach that health and wealth are directly tied to our faith obviously haven't read the book of Job. God said that Job was a just and upright man and yet he suffered tremendously.

God will give us the faith to endure the trials we face.

God does not explain all the details regarding our trials. But God has made clear that He is with us in the trial. We are never alone. God loves us. God is going to work this together for our good.

The Bible has much to say regarding the trials of this life. Just read...

1 and 2 Peter

James

Psalms
Job

God's kingdom is an invisible kingdom that is made visible by the obedience of God's children.

Let your light shine even in the darkness! For its when people are in their darkest hours they need light the most.

God never wastes a hurt!

Remember...

Put your hope in God. Only god can turn our MESS into a MESSage, a TEST into our TESTimony, our TRIals into a TRIumph, from being VICTims to VICTors!

Job 4

How many of us have people in our lives right now who are hurting? This message

will help us all help our friends.

The call of each of us to place our hope in God.
To trust God's heart even when we can't trace His hands. That is the only place we find answers for our suffering In trust.

Suffering is a guarantee in this life but answers for our suffering are not.

I said,

Put your hope in God. Only god can turn our MESS into a MESSage, a TEST into our TESTimony, our TRIals into a TRIumph, from being VICTims to VICTors!

The book of Job is a story about a man who suffers and how he responds to his suffering. Actually, the biggest chunk of the book of Job focuses on the dialog between Job and his three friends and them trying to figure out why Job is suffering.

Chapters 1 and 2,

Chapters 3-31, Solving the mystery of Jobs suffering. Only heaven knows the reason.
Chapter 42:7,

Jon Coursen in his commentary says if he was writing the book of Job it would be like 6 chapters long. Why it takes so long is Job mirrors real life. Suffering, trials and tribulations make up more of life than anything else we go through and when we go through hard times they tend to last much longer than any of us would have them. Job just goes on and on, over and over again the hurts and the heartaches.

Jesus didn't get an answer for His own suffering. **"My God My God, why have You forsaken Me."** Jesus left it with, **"Into Your hands I commit My Spirit."**

30 chapters make a strong point. Suffering goes on and on with no definitive answers. When we go through seasons of pain and are suffering.

In Jesus and Him alone our questions and confusions are resolved, our faith vindicated and our suffering redeemed

The devil accuses God of shielding Job and Job is saying in chapter 3 verse 23 that he is feeling shielded from God not by God. Is this a contradiction? No. It demonstrates that what appears one way to us is actually serving the very opposite end in our lives. Often times God's will looks like He has abandoned us.

Focus on the Cross. It looks like a total defeat, a complete disaster but it was actually our greatest victory.

God's surest protection sometimes takes the form of apparent destruction. Sometimes it appears when God is breaking us down that He is destroying us when he is in fact building us up.

God breaks a man down before God uses Him

greatly.

God never came to Job and said, "**You made it**" like suffering is a form of hazing as some fraternal rite of passage.

Had God given Job an explanation on the front end of his suffering. What would have Job have been putting his trust in. Not in God alone but for his own sake.

Say God explained Job's suffering on the back end of Job's suffering would remove the suffering. The refusal of an explanation kept Job at a place where he is trusting God.

God wants to enlarge our faith and trusting God is the only thing that will get us through the pain. Explanations won't and a double blessing won't.

This morning we'll get a snippet of the text to give us an idea of the counsel Job's friends

have with him as they try to figure out why Job is suffering. Job's three friends come to him...

Eliphaz, 4:1-9,

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

2 "If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary? But who can withhold himself from speaking?

3 Surely you have instructed many, And you have strengthened weak hands.

4 Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees;

5 But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled.

6 Is not your reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope?

7 "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off?

8 Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.

9 By the blast of God they perish, And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.

Job, man you loved counseling others in their hurt and in their need and now, when you are going through tough times you are just falling all apart. You can dish it out but you can't take it.

Bildad, Job 8:1-6

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

**2 "How long will you speak these things,
And the words of your mouth be like a
strong wind?**

**3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the
Almighty pervert justice?**

**4 If your sons have sinned against Him, He
has cast them away for their transgression.**

**5 If you would earnestly seek God And make
your supplication to the Almighty,**

**6 If you were pure and upright, Surely now
He would awake for you, And prosper your
rightful dwelling place.**

Bildad says, how long is chapter 3 going to be in your life Job? How long are you going to cry and complain? God blesses the good and He

punishes the bad. Whats so hard ot figure out about that? Talk about adding insult to injury here. His worthless friend is saying God has killed Job's children because of their sin. Your best bet is to go see if God will show you some mercy.

Zophar, Job 11:13-17

Job 11:1, "Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:"

13 "If you would prepare your heart, And stretch out your hands toward Him;

14 If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;

16 Because you would forget your misery, And remember it as waters that have passed away,

17 And your life would be brighter than noonday. Though you were dark, you would be like the morning."

Zophar is saying, if you would just get your life right all this would go away. Obviously you have sinned big time to bring such calamity on you and your family. Make it right and all this will go away.

Some friends. With friends like this who needs enemies right?

Here is a very interesting point. We don't hear the devil mentioned again in the book of Job after Job 2:7, yet we see the devil revealed in Job's three friends. They will at times sound very much like the devil in his dialog with God.

In chapter 4 we are introduced to Job's three **"Frenemy's. A frenemy is someone who you thought was your friend but turned out to be your enemy"**.

Oxford English Dictionary, authority on words, studies them and their meaning and each year new words are brought before a committee for consideration. It was reported in

a report published on March 12, 2009 the word "Frenemy: was in contention to be added to the dictionary to be added to the English language though it came into existence all the way back in 1953.

The word is a hybrid of two words and was coined to describe a common workplace peril to describe someone who is **"Part friend and part enemy"**.

Chapters 3 through 42 describe the dialog between Job and his "Frenemy's.

Its been said of chapters 3-42, **"Diaolg's that begin as a discussion, continue as a debate and end up us a dispute. Only in the end does God brings resolution to it."**

Before we give Job's three friends a complete bad rap there are three things noteworthy about Job's friends.

1. They came to him. Your friends come to you in your darkest hours of pain while

everyone else walks away.

2. They sat in silence with him for seven days. Your friends you enjoy at times without even a word being spoken. Just being together. Job after his three friends speak is in Job 13 going to long for the day his friends said nothing.

3. They spoke to him and not others about him. If your friends have something to say about you they say it to your face.

As we study the dialog between Job and his three friends we can learn some things NOT to do when we seek to help our friends who are hurting. Two things that jump out from this dialog between Job and his friends.

1. We make moralistic presumption about suffering. The natural response to suffering is "why"? Why me, why now?

Religious people become moralistic at the point of pain and suffering. Instinctively we say to ourselves, **"I must have done something wrong?"**

Religious people become moralistic about suffering. What did you do wrong? You must have done something to deserve this, God must be punishing you.

Job's friends become moralistic. Job's friends in 30 some odd chapters says, "Job, we know how God works. Good people get blessed, bad people get cursed. Obviously you are being cursed. What have you done wrong? Show us the skeletons. God is just and so you are suffering because you deserve it.

Job's friends answers revolve around one major moralistic assumption. Job must have suffering is a direct result because of bad behavior.

Job 1-2 tell us Job was a righteous man, an upright man. Interesting word, the word, "**Straight**" Are you straight? Are you God fearing? Do you have integrity? Are you complete? Then you are straight.

2. We make moralistic prescriptions. From studying the text Job's friends know nothing about God's amazing GRACE.

There is an old saying that goes, **"To prescribe without first diagnosing is malpractice."**

Job's friends are acting on the devil's behalf. We don't hear about the devil after chapter 2 directly. We hear from the devil indirectly through Job's friends. They are saying exactly what the devil was saying to God.

All of Job's friends are offering a rescue that can be earned. They offer relief that can be earned. Bildad in Job 8:5-7, (You'll get your stuff back if you clean up your act). If Bildad was right then Satan would win as it would prove Job only serves God because of stuff.

How NOT to counsel Hurting People.

The first thing hurting people don't need...

1. We don't need sarcasm we need support.

When we hurt we don't need a finger in our face, we need a hand around our shoulder.

Job 4:1-6, "Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: "If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary? But who can withhold himself from speaking? Surely you have instructed many, And you have strengthened weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees; But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled. Is not your reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope?"

Eliphaz is saying to Job, "you are good at giving advice now you need it and can't take it". Job, you can dish it out but you can't take it. Job 4:6, why are you talking about your problems referring to chapter 3. His response is subtle but clear. When people hurt they don't need sarcasm they need support. Job is broken, he is desperate, pleading for comfort and Eliphaz basically says

in verse 8, Job 4:8, **"Even as I have seen,
Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble
reap the same"**

Job 4:2, **"innocent people don't perish, the
upright are not cut off"**. Verse 8, **"As I have
seen"** Eliphaz's insensitivity comes as a result
of his simplistic theology. He is insensitive
because he is inaccurate. He bases his
response by **"What I have seen"..** As
Christians we are called to, **"walk by faith not
by sight"**.

When our brain and eyes cant take in any more
our faith goes on. There is so much more going
on than what we see. There is always more
going on than what we see. God is eternal and
His working is from before the world ever was.
Our days were numbered before there was any.
There is more to life than what we see. Its like
looking at the ocean. The ocean you don't see
is greater than the ocean you do see. Even if
you can see to the end of the earth, there is
always more than what you see.

Walking by faith helps to keep our arrogance in check.

We are a lot like Job's friends then we care to admit. The Pharisees pretended they were different than the gentiles. The counsel of Job's friends. There is never a shortage of opinions in the life of the church.

Problem: People try to explain the pain they are not suffering.

We don't need theological responses we need comfort. When you are going through tough times we need people to pick us up not put us down.

Suffering is never simplistic. Life is not always what it seems. Christianity doesn't offer pat answers for the real probing questions of life.

Tragedy and trial, pain and suffering are complex issues. We make everything manageable.

Religious people often times see suffering as a moral or spiritual problem. We get a list and a lecture. Did you do this and this and this...

Non-Christians deal with suffering as either a Physical or physiological problem. The world says, **“can I have a pill for this...”**

Proverbs 17:17 says, **"A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity."**

The second thing hurting people don't need...

2. We don't need logic we need love. Job 4:7-9, "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same. By the blast of God they perish, And by the breath of His anger they are consumed."

In Job 4:8 we read Eliphaz's logical response. Job 4:8, **“Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.”**

Eliphaz is saying, **“If you do well God will bless you, do bad and God will curse you.”** Eliphaz came to Job to make theological points when Job needed comfort.

Christians know how to give the right answer, but not theologically but functionally what is it that I am living for? In Chapters 3-31 Job and his friends try to answer why God left Job.

When we are in pain we need comfort not theology.

What Job needed, what your friends need in their pain is an arm around them not a finger in their face.

As Proverbs 17:17 put it, “A friend loves at all times”. Your friends lift you up, they don't put

you down.

1 Corinthians 13:1, **"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal"**

The third thing hurting people don't need...

3. We don't need experiences we need encouragement Job 4:12-21, Eliphaz tells Job about a dream he had... Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah... **"Now a word was secretly brought to me, And my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, When deep sleep falls on men, Fear came upon me, and trembling, Which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; The hair on my body stood up. It stood still, But I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; There was silence; Then I heard a voice saying: Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? If He puts no trust in His servants, If**

He charges His angels with error, How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth? They are broken in pieces from morning till evening; They perish forever, with no one regarding. Does not their own excellence go away? They die, even without wisdom."

The fourth thing hurting people don't need...

4. We don't need assumptions we need assurances. Job 5:3-4, "I have seen the foolish taking root, But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place. His sons are far from safety, They are crushed in the gate, And there is no deliverer."

Eliphaz is saying the death of Job's children is due to Job's sin. He bases that on his view of verse 5, Job 5:5, **"Because the hungry eat up his harvest, Taking it even from the thorns, And a snare snatches their substance."**

Eliphaz is saying that he has seen sinners

prosper only to lose everything in the end.
Eliphaz's speech is filled with assumptions.
How could he know what he assumes in verses 6-7, Job 5:6-7, **"For affliction does not come from the dust, Nor does trouble spring from the ground; Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward."**

The fifth thing hurting people don't need...

Don't assume. When you are hurting

5. We don't need advice we need affirmation.
Job 5:8-11, **"But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause-- Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number. He gives rain on the earth, And sends waters on the fields. He sets on high those who are lowly, And those who mourn are lifted to safety."**
Eliphaz has already come to Job assuming he knows why Job is suffering and here in verses 5-11 he tells Job how to fix it. Just go to God and throw yourself on His mercy and just maybe God will surprise you and have

mercy on you.

The worst words ever spoken to someone in their pain is. **"I know how you feel".**

The sixth thing hurting people don't need...

6. We don't need fortune cookies, we need powerful principles.

Job 5:17-26, **"Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole. He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword. You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes. You shall laugh at destruction and famine, And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, And the beasts of the**

field shall be at peace with you. You shall know that your tent is in peace; You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss. You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, And your offspring like the grass of the earth. You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season."

Problem: People try to explain the pain they are not suffering.

We don't need to grasp for words to say that seem right for **"such a time as this"**. We might call this the health and wealth, prosperity gospel and not the true Gospel that God is gracious and kind to sinners.

Its as if Eliphaz is saying, "this sounds good". I have no idea what I am saying but it sounds good.

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions".

Proverbs 25:20, **"Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart."**

Sometimes the things we share with others when they are hurting has the same effect taking away someones jacket in the middle of a snow storm.

Sometimes in our wanting to help we can make things worse.

Two kinds of friends in this world. **"Some friends brighten up a room when enter and others brighten up a room when they leave"**

The two mistakes Eliphaz made in his counsel to Job.

1. All suffering is the result of sin if you go back to the Garden of Eden. But not all suffering is due to our sin. Innocent people suffer. Eliphaz was saying to Job, just go back far enough in

your life and you will find the sin you committed.

2. All righteousness will be rewarded and all sin will be judged. This is true one day but here its out of context. The timing is way off. Righteousness and judgement are not immediate. No man reaps and sows in the same day. We are finite and God is infinite.

Proverbs 18:24, **"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."**

What a friend we have in Jesus! Before Jesus can be your friend He must first become your Savior and Lord.

We can tell Jesus anything. We can pour our hearts out to Him and He will never turn His back on you.

Coming to Christ. We don't get a pass from our pain but what we do get is a person who

promises to be with us in the midst of our pain.
We get a Comforter.

If you or someone you know is in pain tonight
its so comforting to know God is our comforter.

Praise Jesus He knows what we need most!