

Job Part 4 HANDOUT

9.10.23

Chapters 4-31 - Job's 3 friends airing out their opinions. Everyone is just talking about what they think is happening.

Job 42:7 - After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "**I am angry with you** (my anger BURNS against you ESV) and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.

- Job's friends teach us how NOT to respond when someone is suffering.
- We will be judged for every careless word we say.

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

KEY: Be careful what you say - Every careless word that comes out of your mouth - God notices. It can detract from God's glory.

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that **we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

First, Eliphaz responded.

- **Job 4:4-9 & Job 5:6-8**
- Eliphaz reminds Job of what a good guy he's been "Should not your piety be your confidence...?"
- He encouraged Job to explain to God why he didn't deserve all that he endured.

KEY: Our goodness does not dictate how God relates to us.

Job then replied to Eliphaz.

- **Job 7:20**
- In his response to Eliphaz, Job assumed that bad things are supposed to happen to bad people, not a faithful man like himself.

Next was Bildad's turn.

- **Job 8:20-22** - Bildad focused on God's character, declaring that God would not reject a blameless person - **Good behavior warrants a reward, and bad behavior earns punishment.**

Job then replied to Bildad

- **Job 9:4-10** - Job's response in chapter nine declared that God is too great to be truly known. His works are beyond our understanding.
- **Job 10:8-12** - Here, Job acknowledged God as his caring creator, but one who seemed to be destroying him.

Zophar, joined the conversation.

- **Job 11:13-18** - He sees the world as karmic—you earn both pain and joy. *Job suffered greatly so, surely, he thought, he must have sinned greatly.*

Eliphaz adds to Zophar's claim that Job earned his suffering.

- **Job 22:4-11**

Job's last response:

- **Job 29:1-8** - Job looks back to the days "when the Almighty was still with me" (29:5).
- **Job 31:4-8** - He is convinced God has abandoned him despite his innocence and begs to know why he has suffered.
- **Job 31:35-40** - God has gone from someone Job trusts to one that Job cannot make sense of.

KEY: You and I today are secure in God's love and righteousness despite the pain we are enduring.

Life POINT: My response to suffering should reflect humility and trust in God who is sovereign and perfect.