

The Message of Job

- Job 1:6-12
- The Hebrew word translated “satan” is a _____, not a proper name.
- Job 1:8 – “blameless” points to Job’s moral character, not a sinless perfection
- Job’s good and faithful life is the very thing the accuser wants to use to _____ him.
- Job 1:9 – “Does Job fear God for nothing?”
- The primary message of Job is about how we _____ to God, not how we deal with suffering.

What to Do – Walking with Others in Suffering

- Job 2:11-13
- Job’s friends heard about his suffering, and they: 1) _____ up, 2) sympathized & comforted, and 3) remained _____.
- Friends don’t stay home, they _____.
 - Sympathize - to _____ about someone’s pain, feel pity or sorrow for their trouble (Webster online)
 - Comfort - to _____ someone feel better when they are sad, worried, or in pain (Webster online)
- In Judaism, _____ refers to a 7-day period of mourning at the loss of a family member, which is based on the way Joseph mourned the loss of his father Jacob.
- *Shiva* is about being _____ with people in their suffering, not answering their questions about suffering.

- Job 3:1-4, 11, 16, 20-21, 23-26
- Job said he was suffering for no reason and that God was _____ for it.

What Not to Do – Walking with Others in Suffering

- Job 4:3-8; 8:2-4
- Job’s friends had an overly _____ theology. They functioned out of fear. And they misapplied truth.
- If you think about it, “a simplistic application of retributive justice would mean there could never be grace” (Bill Kynes, Wrestling with Job, p.67).
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- They also misapplied the truth from an _____ intelligence perspective.
- “They speak from the detached security of the academic armchair, while Job is writhing in the pain of the sufferer’s wheelchair” (Bill Kynes, Wrestling with Job, p.70).
- The example of Jesus we can follow.

Reflection Questions

1. Read Job 1:9 aloud. Discuss the “big question” and its implications for your life and faith.
2. Share with the group a time when you experienced the “ministry of presence” from another person.
3. Where and when have you experienced silence in the presence of another person that was more powerful than any words that could have been spoken?
4. What’s your biggest takeaway in the “what not to do” example of Job’s friends?
5. What did you find most helpful/challenging in this message?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What is your next faithful step?