

THE EYE OF THE STORM

LIFE IS NEVER THAT SIMPLE #2

Read Job 2:11-13

1. What do Job's three friends do in response to his suffering? What does this tell us about his friends?

Read Job 3

2. What does Job say to his friends about his own suffering? How does this compare with what Satan predicted in 2:5?

Read Eliphaz's first speech in Job 4-5

3. How would you describe the tone of Eliphaz's speech? Is he supportive? Cruel? Caring? Understanding?

4. What does Eliphaz think is the reason behind Job's sufferings (4:7-8)?

5. Why is Eliphaz so confident about his assessment of Job (4:12-16)?

6. What is Eliphaz's advice to Job (5:8,17)?

Read Eliphaz's last speech in Job 22.

7. Is he still trying the same things?

Read Job 8:1-7

8. What does Bildad think is the reason behind Job's suffering?

9. What does Bildad think Job should do to restore his blessings?

Read Job 11:1-6

10. What is Zophar's assessment of Job?

Read Job 11:13 – 20

11. What does Zophar think Job should do to restore his blessings?

12. Looking back over the advice of Job's three friends:

a. What do they have in common?

b. In what ways are they different?

IMPLICATIONS

1. What can we learn from Job's friends concerning helping each other through suffering?

2. What do the following passages have to say about the different possible reasons for suffering?

- 1 Corinthians 11:27-32
- Hebrews 12:7-11
- Luke 13:1-5
- John 9:1-3

3. Imagine that a friend is going through a great personal tragedy, and someone tells them that their suffering is because of an unconfessed sin in their life. What might you say in response to that idea?

4. What do you think it means to entrust yourself to “him who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23)? In what practical ways can we help each other do this?