**Job**

Job is a book that many have trouble reading. It is hard to read the interaction between Job and his “friends”. I find it helpful to read this as a how to help someone when they are suffering and how NOT to help someone when they are suffering. Job even said so (16:2: miserable comforters are you all). Listen to each of Job’s friends put blame on Job for all that is going on. In many places, they blame Job for his suffering. I think it is a great book to show how to and how not to help someone who is suffering. Each of these three friends say Job is suffering because he has sinned and been sinful. God is punishing Job for these sins. Job, insists on his innocence.

There is another interesting person in the book of Job. His name is Elihu. He sits in silence because he is younger. He has a different take on things. He says God uses suffering to better people or to warn them (32:29-30 and 36:15 are examples of God using suffering to ‘teach’.) There is no indication in the book if he is right or wrong. Job’s other three friends were told to repent of what they had said. Not Elihu. At the same time, we are not told if Elihu is right. It is open ended which to me means it is possible. Not that it is the reason EVERY time. But, can God use suffering to teach us or correct our actions? We have to be careful, it doesn’t mean God is the one who causes the suffering but God can use it. But, at the same time, we can’t be so confident to say God never puts something negative in our life to change us. Each case is different and prayer is always needed through suffering.

We also know this one undisputable fact, whether God has caused the suffering or the suffering is a result of sin, God is always with us.

**Chapter 2**

Verse 9-10: Even though it was Satan who has afflicted Job, Job attributed the attacks as coming from God. Although God allowed Satan to do these things, it was not God who was doing this to Job. BUT, Job thought it was from God and in these verses shows an amazing understanding and faith. If we accept good from God should we not accept the bad from God. Most Christians today would probably curse God or at least question His love for them. Many might turn from God because of the horrific things they are dealing with.

Verse 13: Job’s friends do the best thing you can do when you are helping someone who is experiencing tragedy. They sit with him for seven days and no one says anything. This is one of the best things you can do for someone in this situation. Just be with them. Words are not always necessary. From here on out, the friends are not good helpers for Job. Listen to the rest of the book as they basically blame Job for all that has happened to them.

**Chapter 3**

These are words of someone who is suffering. It is good for him to vent like this. What he doesn’t need, is what we will read in chapter 4 where he is basically blamed for all of this.

**Chapter 4**

Verse 7: Eliphaz is saying God doesn’t punish the innocent. In other words, God doesn’t punish those who are innocent. It is the guilty that God punishes. He did so much better when he said nothing. Let a suffering man vent and just listen. And definitely don’t tell the person they are at fault for what is going on.

**Chapter 9:**

Verse 33: If only there was someone to arbitrate between us and God.

**1 Timothy 2:5:** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**Chapter 19**

Verse 25: The great hymn, “I Know My Redeemer Lives” is inspired from this verse.

Verse 26: Job probably lived during the time of the church fathers (the time of Genesis). As early as this book came to be, we have the resurrection mentioned in verse 26. We all look forward to the day our flesh is resurrected and we will see Jesus face to face.

**Chapter 20**

In this chapter, Zophar, talks about the wicked and godless (verse 5). He is implying Job is suffering because he is wicked and godless. Zophar is trying to relate God to Job.

**Chapter 21**

Job feels as if the wicked suffer and excel. Job feels he is suffering unjustly and feels like what is the point. The wicked are the ones who succeed in life.

Verse 19: Zophar has written in chapter 20 that the wicked suffer. In verse 19, Job basically says, “Let God pay the wicked as you are saying.”

**Chapter 22**

Verse 5: Eliphaz tells Job his evil is abundant and there is no end to your iniquities. In other words, you suffering is a result of your wickedness and God is paying you back for them. This is a prime example of how NOT to help someone.