

God and Suffering  
Job 19:4-29

Review:

1. God is sovereign, in control even of the most painful events of our lives
2. In all our sufferings, we must hold on to the hope of the resurrection and the coming of Christ
3. Sharing in the sufferings of Christ is one way we can draw near to Him until He comes again

Reflect:

1. Have times of grief or pain for yourselves or your loved ones ever caused your faith to waver? How do the examples of Job and Jesus change your view of your suffering?
2. Have you ever suffered because you are a follower of Christ? How has that experience affected your relationship with Jesus?

Go further: Read Job 42

1. After God describes His miraculous works in creation, Job responds to Him. In verse 2, what does Job admit that the Lord can do? What limitations does he believe God has?
2. In verse 3, Job quotes what the Lord said in 38:2. To whom was the Lord speaking? What does Job admit about the content of his prayers?
3. In verse 4, the Lord tells Job to listen to Him. In verse 5, how does Job say that he has heard about God?
4. How does verse 5 describe how Job's experience of God has changed?
5. Because of his new closeness to God, what two things does verse 6 say that Job will do?
6. According to verse 7, why did God say He was angry with Job's three friends?
7. In verse 8, what three things did God tell Job's friends to do?
8. What did Job need to do in order for his friends to be forgiven of their folly? Why did Job have to do this?
9. According to verse 10, when did the Lord restore Job's losses? What did the Lord give to Job?
10. According to verse 11, in what ways did Job's friends and family bless him?
11. According to verse 12, what possessions did Job eventually have?
12. According to verse 13, how many children did Job end up having?
13. According to verse 15, what did Job give to each of his daughters?
14. How long did Job end up living?

Summary and Application:

1. In verse 4, Job quotes what the Lord said in 38:3, and in the following verses, the Lord asked Job many questions drawing his attention to the immensity and complexity of God's creation. How did these questions bring Job to an attitude of humility? How does an examination of God's creation help to put your own sufferings into perspective?
2. According to verse 6, Job says that he will retract his statements and that he will repent. But in verses 7 and 8, God insists that Job has spoken correctly about Him. From which of Job's statements or attitudes do you think he needed to repent? What did Job say about God that was true?
3. How does Job's intercession for His friends foreshadow the ministry of Christ? What does Job's example tell us about our own need to pray for those who have misunderstood us or hurt us?