

**Sermon Title:** “When Sorrow Reigns”

**Primary Text:** Job 2:11-3:26

Grief is often an emotion that in our culture doesn’t seem to have a “normal” avenue to be expressed. This week Pastor Zach continued our series in **Job** by examining **Job’s** expressions of grief found in **Chapter 3**, revealing that God’s word *encourages* us to appropriately sit in our sorrow. We see that as a *righteous* man, Job models how we can move through our own grief while honoring God. First, we see an **Inward Focus** – taking the time to recognize that we *are* mourning and accepting that emotional process...usually a *real* loss we need to acknowledge and process. Second, we move to an **Outward Comparison**. This might become unhealthy if we get stuck in a “why me?” loop, but it can also give us an opportunity to see that we are not **alone** in our grieving – this is an experience shared by **All**.

Finally, to process our grief we must move to an **Upward** and **Eternal Perspective**, recognizing that God is sovereign over all – including our sorrows. As **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** reminds us, we do not mourn as those without hope! There is a victory and final end to suffering, though our mourning feels “permanent,” we know there will be a day those who follow Christ will be completely filled with joy, where God will turn our “mourning into dancing!” (**Psalm 30:11-12**)

**Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:**

Romans 12:15, 8:28

Ephesians 1:11

Psalm 22

**Questions to Consider this week:**

- Pastor Zach talked about how invoking a single verse from the Psalms would reference the entire Psalm, often as a prayer. Was this new to you? How have you used the Psalms in your prayers?
- Job models true, genuine, and **righteous** mourning. Are there areas you feel you need “permission” to mourn? How does Job’s prayer help you?
- **Psalm 22** as a prayer takes us from genuine mourning to worship. In what ways have you found that difficult?
- One of the greatest challenges for the believer is to recognize God is sovereign over the **suffering**, not just the **joys**. When have you found this particularly difficult? How does seeing Job and Jesus’ prayer encourage you today?

**Guided Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, I know suffering is a normal part of life, even though it feels wrong to admit that sometimes. Help me remember **Your** suffering, and the righteous suffering of **Job** and Christians throughout history so that I can be comforted knowing You are sovereign over it **ALL**, the joy, the sorrow, the blessings, and when the blessings seem absent. Help me **worship** You even when I feel overwhelming sorrow. -AMEN*

**Song for Personal Worship:**

“Not for a Moment” (Vertical Worship/Jon Guerra)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zjULoklz\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zjULoklz_k)