

Sermon Title: “When Helping Hurts”

Primary Text: Job 4-14

This week we moved from smaller passages in Job to a huge collection of speeches from Job and his three friends. The large movements through the text help us understand that this is an epic “argument” between worldviews, not just well-meaning (though *un*-helpful) friends. Job’s three friends view the world through the lens of the **Retributive Principle**, assuming if you do good or bad things, bad or good things would happen to you but that the presence of blessing must indicate you are righteous – that Job’s suffering shows there must be grievous sin in his life.

It’s easy to adopt the same attitude that the friends did... the “Karma” assumption is well ingrained even in our modern society, but Job shows us that the righteous *do* suffer according to the sovereignty of God. We don’t always get to see the “heavenly picture” that is revealed in Job 1-2, but we *can* see that God is sovereign through all of history past, present, and future. Additionally, **Job** serves as a picture of **Jesus Christ** who (unlike Job) was *truly* innocent yet suffered in our place by taking what we *did* deserve.

When that is kept in mind, we can avoid the un-helpfulness of Job’s friends. We can sit with those who suffer and mourn with them, we can guide them to worship a Holy God who is sovereign over them, and we can have hope that the suffering we go through will pale in comparison to the future God has promised us.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Job 2:11-13

Galatians 6:7

Proverbs 11:18

Questions to Consider this week:

- Are there times in your life where someone has tried to “help” but has actually hurt by trying to *explain why* you went through suffering? Why do you think they did that?
- Job gets increasingly angry with his friends (and, to some degree with God) as you go through the first cycle of speeches. Has that happened to you in a similar way?
- The **Sound of Music** song is a beautiful love song... but unintentionally teaches a worldview that doesn’t align with what God has revealed. Are there times in your past you have thought that about yourself? About someone else?
- Reflect on the Gospel connection from this passage. Like the friends, we often think of consequences only in the “Temporal,” how does trusting in God’s **eternal** justice help you endure suffering today?

Guided Prayer

*Lord Jesus, It’s easy for us to look for answers to the “why” question even when you clearly haven’t provided them. This week, help me to trust in You as sovereign Lord, help me to understand that you are working on a scale that is beyond just me. Help me to be “Helpful” when my friends and family go through suffering by turning them to **worship**, not just trying to find the “Why.” -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship:

“The Lamb of God” (Vertical Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqXzepuJhKs>