

Sermon Title: “Who Says”

Primary Text: Job 15-21

As Pastor Zach unpacked Job’s response in **Chapter 19**, we saw that there are three main take-aways from the way Job responded to Bildad. First, Job rightly criticizes his friends for standing in God’s place as Judge. For us, we need to acknowledge that when we try to justify “Suffering” by pointing to a person’s apparent righteousness (or sinfulness), we are potentially putting ourselves in God’s place as judge... just as Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar have.

Second, Job’s lament and complaint towards God never questioned whether or not God had the *right* to bring suffering. As we have talked about before, few names in history have the same cataclysmic fall that Job bears... he went from the most prosperous and respected member of his society to an outcast that even his family avoided. Though Job’s lament is real, we recognize that Job modeled a way to experience grief without calling into question God’s sovereignty over it.

Finally, Job’s hope (even in despair) was found in knowing that God truly lived, truly knew him, and would ultimately **vindicate** Job as his living kinsman-redeemer. What Job hoped for in abstract, we (as followers of Jesus Christ) follow in concrete, realized truth. As Job trusted God would ultimately restore his standing in a temporal way, we know that from an eternal perspective followers of Christ will stand before Jesus our Judge and Defender fully accepted and known through the work of the Cross.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Romans 1:18-20, 3:23, 6:23 2:11-13 John 9:1-3 Hebrews 9:27
2 Corinthians 5:10 John 5:22 2 Timothy 4:1

Questions to Consider this week:

- Think of a current or past trial. When you reflect on your “suffering,” do you find yourself more like Job or his friends? How can you turn your right feelings of grief into Worship?
- How are you able to be a **good** friend to those who suffer? Especially in light of Bildad, Zophar, and Eliphaz’s poor example, how can you encourage and comfort someone who is suffering? How would **you** like to be encouraged and comforted?
- One of the most difficult parts of trusting God as sovereign is when we see “bad things” happen. In what ways do you have trouble trusting that God is still good when he allows, or ordains, difficult things to happen?

Guided Prayer

*Lord Jesus, like Job’s friends I sometimes put myself in your place when I try to find the “Why” around suffering. Thank you that you are in control, and help me trust you are Good even when I don’t understand. Give me words and opportunities to encourage others as they ask the same questions in **their** trials. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship:

“Jesus our Judge and our Savior” (Sovereign Grace)

https://youtu.be/-LdOV5iG91M?si=Z9_02c0taH0StqU