

Sermon Title: “A Word for the Lord”

Primary Text: Job 32-37

For the majority of the book, Elihu has sat by as his elders debated whether or not Job’s actions deserved the suffering he was enduring. As we saw last week, this younger man burned with anger not because of his *own* offense but because the conversation never took time to speak in the **LORD’s** defense. Finally, as we draw closer to God speaking from the maelstrom, Elihu helps Job (and us) see that suffering isn’t just punitive it’s purposeful – God can use it to call us to himself.

It may feel a little harsh to say that **Job** needed to be humbled, but as He began speaking exclusively in his own defense there was a certain amount of defiance that intentionally or accidentally worked its way in. Through his speeches, we see Job feeling he was fully justified in calling God to vindicate him because in his view the *only* reason he was enduring the suffering was because of some sin – or God’s negligence. Job missed what we need to remember – it wasn’t **Job** on trial but **GOD** (see Job 1-2). Though Elihu surely doesn’t get *everything* right in his four speeches, he *does* point Job and us to remember that **God** is sovereign regardless if we see the “point” of our suffering or not.

Most importantly, we saw that though we may not always be listening... God continues to speak to us today. The three areas we covered were Scripture, faithful teachers, and even through our suffering.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Hebrews 10:23-25; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; John 1:14, 8:12 ; James 1:2-4; Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 11:28

Questions to Consider this week:

- It’s easy to fall into the same trap **Job** did: we think suffering is all about **US**. Can you think of times when periods of trial or suffering has (in retrospect) been purposed for something beyond yourself?
- We saw that God continues to speak to us through **Scripture**, faithful **teachers**, and through our suffering. How have you intentionally sought to **listen** through one of those things in the last week?
- Are there times that you can see God was speaking – but you weren’t listening?
- The primary area **Job** needed to repent of was **pride**. How does **pride** impact how you view suffering? How does pride influence the way **scripture** is read?
- Even as a **righteous** man, **Job** was being called to repentance. This week, think on how God has spoken (or is speaking) and where God may be calling you to repent.

Guided Prayer

*Lord Jesus, we thank you that you still speak to us today. Thank you that you came so that we can truly know you, and through your spirit we can **hear** you when you speak. I confess that I haven’t always been listening, let your Holy Spirit open my ears and soften my heart so that through your Word, your teachers, and even in my suffering I hear what you graciously speak today. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship:

“Lead us to Repentance” (Sovereign Grace)

<https://youtu.be/ckxjRf1XFQc?si=ywNS2XvQ7hfPw3M5>