

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **March 10, 2019** sermon, "When the Counselor Lacks Compassion." Please read the sermon passage (Job 8:1-22) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

BECAUSE EVERY FRIEND WILL EVENTUALLY PLAY THE ROLE OF COUNSELOR . . .

1. Be reluctant in your rebuking (1-4)
 - a. Bildad is a friend who offers bad counsel (Job 42:7-8)
 - b. As he addresses the "How long?" question, he lays all the blame on Job . . .
 - i. Bildad thinks that the presence of suffering proves the absence of God.
 - ii. He says that Job's (and his children's) suffering comes from sinning.
 - c. But Job learned to trust the Lord fully BEFORE he got to his day of suffering (Job 1, 2).
2. Be humble in your advice-giving (5-7)
 - a. In addressing, "How long?" Bildad says that Job's suffering will cease when he . . .
 - i. Works: Enters a state of seeking/searching or pleading *enough*.
 - ii. Works: Produces *enough* moral purity and uprightness.
 - b. Bildad: "Your suffering will end when you work hard enough to please God."
 - c. Lessons for us from Bildad's bad example/advice . . .
 - i. We often don't know, "why," and don't know "how long." Be okay with that.
 - ii. Being faithful to God while questions endure is better than life, comfort, ease.
3. Let God's Word (alone) make you wise (8-19)
 - a. Bildad appeals to the wisdom of his ancestors as the authority for his counsel.
 - b. Lessons for us from Bildad's bad example/advice . . .
 - i. Do not offer re-packaged, unprayed for ancient "wisdom" as if it could help.
 - ii. Know the Word of God and let it be the authority for your thinking/advice.
4. Be God-centered in your confidence (20-22)
 - a. God did not reject the beautiful, perfect and blameless work of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The continuation of suffering in my life is not the absence of God's grace and help.
 - c. While Job never received any answers for his questions, he got something better: God.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Bildad blamed Job for the suffering he endured. Bildad's presupposition was that "God uses suffering to punish sinners." But Bildad did not what God was doing through Job's suffering. Why should we be careful to NOT assume that every sufferer is simply getting what they deserve? How would compassion improve (or lessen!) your rebuking?
2. Based on #2, above: Bildad thinks that Job's suffering will end as soon as he works hard enough to please God. This advice is hurtful, presumptuous and flat-out wrong. How has your suffering been made worse by hurtful or shallow counsel? What can we learn from this bad example?
3. Based on #3, above: We often repeat counsel that has some truth to it, but when examined closer, is simply not Scriptural. Give an example. What steps can you take to make certain that the Word of God is the authority for your advice/thinking?
4. Based on #4, above: God will glorify his own excellent name through the suffering of his saints. Discuss: "Ongoing suffering in my life does not mean that God is distant from me." How might God be using your suffering to glorify his name and build his kingdom?