

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **April 7, 2019** sermon, "Witness in Heaven" Please read the sermon passage (Job 16:1-22) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN THE MIDST OF LOSS, THE COMFORT OF GRACE IS NEEDED WHEN . . .

1. Tensions are escalating (1-5)
 - a. Job is growing increasingly frustrated and blunt with his poor counselors.
 - b. We learn several lessons from Job's response to his friends/counselors . . .
 - i. We must each refuse the tendency to assume that we know why others suffer.
 - ii. Apply much grace to your friends' use of words while they suffer.
 1. Do not react to their words. Verbal contradictions may be the norm.
 2. Try to get behind the words, applying grace to their hearts.
 - c. Jesus is (present tense) interceding (praying for, defending!) for us.
2. God seems adversarial (6-17)
 - a. At various times in our lives, it feels as if God has become our adversary.
 - b. Job is inconsistent in his mourning . . .
 - i. Asking that his friends stop assuming what is going on with Job,
 - ii. Job himself is assuming what is going on with God.
 - c. Note the way God multiplies grace (not judgment) to the brokenhearted.
 - d. The comforter (you) may have to "sing" hallelujah to or for the brokenhearted.
3. Advocacy is required (18-22)
 - a. Jesus, knowing all your sin, is not a prosecuting attorney, but your defense attorney.
 - b. Job could endure his suffering because he is certain of a present tense advocate.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Have you noticed that your words become undisciplined and loose, the longer your calamity stretches? How can you mature in your use of words (and verbal processing) when your own suffering has no end in sight?
2. Based on #1, above: Have you noticed that your friend's words become undisciplined and loose, the longer their calamity stretches? How can you grow in your ability to NOT react to their words, and NOT lecture them on their words and language? How can you focus more on ministering to their hearts, especially when their words are inconsistent and contradictory?
3. Based on #2, above: Have you ever had a friend facing a crisis of belief in the midst of "a pit"? Have you ever had a friend stating that they feel as if God is the enemy? Give a couple of practical suggestions about how to "sing" a broken hallelujah to a friend who views God as the adversary. Music may be a part of your answer, but what other ideas come to mind?
4. Based on #3, above: Jesus could be the first one in line pointing out all of your flaws and failures and sin. But for those who trust Christ alone, delighting themselves in him, Jesus is not a prosecuting attorney, but a defender. How does this minister to you? How can you become more like Jesus when you come alongside the sufferer? Apply this to your spouse or children.