

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **November 5, 2017** sermon, "But He Knows the Way." Please read the sermon passage (Job 23) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN FACING INTENSE TRIALS, CONSIDER . . .

1. The presence of God and the picture of the courtroom (1-7)
 - a. Eliphaz is Job's friend, but unhelpful: "Since you are suffering you must have sinned. Stop sinning and you will stop suffering." But sin is not the only reason we suffer.
 - b. Job wants a hearing at God's judgment seat. He knows God will acquit him.
 - c. But God is not accessible. Job cannot seem to find God.
 - d. Job "argues the problem of suffering, and suffers the problem of arguing."
 - e. Our suffering has many purposes, but our suffering is not for our condemnation.
2. The purposes of God and the picture of the furnace (8-17)
 - a. God knows the way, but we do not (10). Be careful when you think you know the way.
 - b. Knowing why you have been hurt is less important than knowing the One who heals.
 - c. The one who purifies gold turns the heat up to an incredibly high temperature, and he knows the gold is pure when he can see his reflection (image) in the melted gold.
 - d. Be careful when your argument is with God. God's purposes are often hidden.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you have any friends (or have you been the friend) who over-spiritualizes everything? How does believing that "all suffering is punishment from God for past or present sin" hold you back? How does it dampen your relationship with God? How does it produce excuses in your heart? How does it produce insecurity?
2. Based on #1, above: Do you argue with God about your own suffering? What is the result of your arguments with God? How does knowing that your suffering is not for your condemnation comfort or encourage you? (Romans 8:1)
3. Based on #2, above: What is the result (your attitudes/expectations) when you think you know the way, but God takes you another way (v. 10)? How can you get to this place: "I do not know the way, and I do not need to know the way. I will trust God today, because 'He knows the way that I take'?"
4. Based on #2, above: Respond to this idea: "Knowing why you have been hurt is less important than knowing the One who heals."
5. Based on #2, above: God, as the goldsmith, must heat the gold to an incredibly hot temperature (trials and suffering) in order to refine it. He knows that the gold is pure when he can see his image in it. How does this help you with "When he has tried me, I shall come out as gold"? (10)