

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **February 10, 2019** sermon, "The Counselor has Blind Spots." Please read the sermon passage (Job 4:1-5:27) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHETHER PROVIDING COUNSEL OR SEEKING COUNSEL, EVALUATE . . .

1. The initiative being taken (4:1-6)
 - a. The wise counselor waits for an on-ramp.
 - b. The wise counselor emphasizes insight over eyesight.
2. The views being offered (4:7-11)
 - a. The wise counselor makes certain that the advice being given aligns with God's Word.
 - b. The wise counselor does not try to reveal what God himself has kept concealed.
3. The experiences being highlighted (4:12-21)
 - a. The wise counselor makes God's Word the authority, rather than personal experience.
 - b. Be very careful with those who tend to over spiritualize their experiences.
4. The application being made (5:1-7)
 - a. The wise counselor learns to restrain words in order to reach the heart.
 - b. Wrong assumptions often lead to wrong application.
 - c. God's people may experience dark days, even in their faithfulness.
5. The beliefs being stated (5:8-16)
6. The conclusion being drawn (5:17-27)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: It is often unwise to give counsel to someone. They may not be ready to hear it, may not sense that you have entered their life via a legitimate "on ramp," or may lack the spiritual discernment to embrace biblical insight. Describe what you have learned about when to speak, how much to say, and when it is simply better to remain silent.
2. Based on #2, above: God often conceals his reasons for doing things. You may never know why he does what he does, and as a counselor, it is very dangerous to try to reveal what God himself has concealed. Respond to this statement: it is better to sit silently with your friend in faith (help your friend toward "Who" to trust), than to offer certain words (try to answer "Why?").
3. Based on #3, above: God's Word is our authority, and not the pragmatic approach of "what worked" for me. How do you process the words before you offer advice? How much time is needed to prepare? What key Bible passages do you process? How do you handle gray areas or areas of uncertainty? What do you do if you realize you have spoken too soon?
4. Based on #3, above: When choosing a counselor, (or a friend to confide in, which is the same thing), what qualities draw you in? Which qualities repel you?
5. Based on #4, above: Wrong assumptions lead to wrong applications. How have you been hurt by wrong assumptions? What should we do to guard against wrong assumptions?