

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **April 14, 2019** sermon, "Prelude to Easter" Please read the sermon passage (Job 19:1-12, 23-27) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE PONDER HUMAN SUFFERINGS, NOTE THE TENSION BETWEEN *PRESENT* AND *FUTURE* BY CONSIDERING . . .

1. The adversities we experience through life (1-12)
 - a. Trust God when the attacks seem endless (1-6)
 - i. Can you say (of your ash heap experience), "God is in this"?
 - ii. When you lack answers, don't assume anything. Keep trusting God.
 - iii. Your ash heap does not do something to you, but reveals something about you.
 - b. Trust God when the life seems unfair (7-12)
 - i. Sometimes it seems that God has barricaded our forward progress.
 - ii. Learn to cry out to Him, asking for help, even while you wait.
2. The certainties we experience through life (23-27)
 - a. Job has a certain faith in God: He knows for sure that his Redeemer lives.
 - b. Job has a personal faith in God: While he is confused about the "Whys" and the "Whens", yet he says of the LORD, "My Redeemer."
 - c. Job has a living faith. He is certain that his Redeemer "lives."
 - d. Job's living faith and hope brings certainty into the midst of his adversity.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Think through your current (or recent) adversities. In what way are you "lacking answers" about "Why" God is doing this, or "When" the adversity might end? What expectation or "possession" have you lost? Can you say (of your suffering), "God is in this"?
2. Based on #1, above: Have you ever struggled with making negative assumptions about people when they experience adversity? How did your unhelpful negative assumptions impact your relationship with the sufferer? Your prayer life? Your own loneliness when you got to the ash heap? How can you stop making assumptions of people who are suffering?
3. Based on #1, above: There are moments in our lives when God barricades our forward progress. There was nothing Job could do to reduce his suffering or jump ahead in the process. He had to wait for God, and he learned to cry out to God. What's the difference between waiting and sulking? What's the difference between crying out because of (about) God and crying out to God? How has God used suffering to teach you to "cry out to him"?
4. Based on #2, above: Regardless of all the grief in his life, Job was able to turn to true, immovable and glorious realities about his good Redeemer. He wasn't hoping God might come through, he is certain that God has come through. He didn't lean on the strength of a friend's faith (or envy someone else's easy life), but he held to "my Redeemer." How does the truth that "I know my Redeemer lives" bring certainty to your adversity? And how does it help you minister to others in the midst of their adversity?