



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 2:11-13

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. **12** And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. **13** And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 2:11-13

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A friend in need is a friend indeed, as the saying goes, underscores these few verses of scripture. What loneliness and despair Job must have felt in the sorrowful ash-heap of his broken life. What comfort he must have found at the arrival of his friends and their willingness to meet him there.

We all have, at some time or another, experienced difficult and sorrowful times. Trials and tribulations abound on this side of heaven, and these are also things that we should expect to come; after all, Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation" and there is also purpose in it (John 16:33). But even in such times, we should also not expect to be alone. In Christ, we have His Spirit, yes, and with His presence are never truly alone, but we also in Christ have His people. His people become the tangible comfort that He provides as he commands that we should bear one another's burdens (2 Corinthians 1:4; Galatians 6:2).

It is important, though, to note the manner in which we come as friends and comforters to one another in need. There is wisdom in Job's friends as they came and sat in silence with him for quite a long time. How often do we come to the needs of friends with a mind to "fix" rather than just be present with them? If we can just make that circumstance change, that struggle disappear, or that pain subside. We offer insight and options as we analyze the situation to end the trial as quickly as possible without thought or prayer for what the Lord's purposes may be. What blessing may be



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removed or thwarted by the "quick fix" we seek to apply. From when Job's silence is broken and until God speaks again, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar offer only bitter counsel as their silent wisdom turns to foolish explanation.

When we meet one another in our afflictions, there will come a time for wise counsel; there will come a time to offer advice. But may we look to the Lord to bring that about in us, understanding circumstances and the severity of the plight, to wait in silence with simply the sweet comfort of a true friend's presence.

Questions:

1. Think of a time when you were in need of great comfort. In what manner did that comfort come? Would you have desired it differently?
2. Think of a time in which you provided great comfort. Do you tend to offer "quick fixes" or patient counsel?
3. Are you currently in need of great comfort? If so, please email pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com and let us know how we can be praying for you and how we can offer comfort to you.