

1. Have you ever had someone in the church try to comfort you with scriptures and you knew they cared, but they clearly didn't really KNOW what you were going through? Has that experience shaped how you comfort others?
2. It was suggested the pain we experience in life can be sorted into just three Categories

1 Unfulfilled expectations

Something happened that was unexpected which prevented your expectation from being fulfilled OR

Your expectations were misplaced

2 An event which brought physical injury into your life

Remember he said "We all have a misplaced expectation these kinds of things won't happen to us, but let's let this be its own category."

3 The combination of the two

When someone in your life you had reasonable expectations of, intentionally, physically harmed you.

Is it really that simple?

Can you think of another type of hurt which doesn't ultimately land in one of these categories?

Does this simplicity help you at all with the pain in your life?

What about the insightful: "expectations were maybe misplaced" suggestion?

3. It is very common for death in a person's life to cause them to separate, or drift away from God. Consider the deaths in Jesus' life.
 - The murdered innocent babies at His birth. Matthew 2:1-19
 - The early death of his good earthly father Joseph and the impact that must have had on Jesus' life course.
 - The irrational selfish murder of his cousin John the Baptist. Matthew 14:1-13
 - The premature death of Lazarus. John Chapter 11
 - And ultimately, the stress of his own impending tortuous death.
Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46

Set aside for a moment that this is Jesus and he has a perfect understanding of where He fits in humanity and the universe. Consider only the burden of these hurts. If one believes in God, how does one not hold God accountable for such

things? We have Jesus as our example. What did Jesus have?

100 pts Extra Credit:

How does this all mesh with God's discourse in the book of Job? (38:1-42:6)