



Sermon Notes

Job 38:1-6; 40:1-8; 42:1-10 **“SUFFERING”**

An Encounter with God in Suffering Will...

1) Transform My Perspective Job 38:1-2

- Stay away from shallow answers to suffering: Irreligion (Job2:9 Be angry at God) & Religion (Chap3-37 Job's miserable comforters – you lack faith or have sinned – Be angry at yourself)
- God is omnipresent, omniscient & omnipotent in the worst of times doing thousands of things our finite minds can't comprehend. Job38-39, 40:6-41:34
- I'm stressed, upset & have no peace because of my low (small) view of God. Job1:20-22; 2:10

2) Reveal My True Motives

- There is a difference between loving (serving) God for the benefits He brings and loving (serving) God for Himself alone. Job1:9-11, 2:4-5
- The only way I will ever know & learn how to love God for Himself alone is through suffering. Job13:15; 14:15-17; 19:25-27; 23:10-12
- The more I grow in my love for God alone, the less I will be rattled by circumstances because I have His love enriching me. Job4-5 (The Innocent prosper) Job11 (You deserve worse) Job15 (Job is accused of not fearing God)

3) Give me an intimacy with God that I wouldn't trade for anything.

- It's His Greatness & Goodness that produces in me a Humble Confidence. Job38:1
- I am more sinful than I ever dared to think (humble) and more loved than I ever dared to dream (confidence). (Timothy Keller) Job42:6; Job 42:10
- God goes from being an idea to my most satisfying reality. Job42:5; Job 40:8; 2Cor5:21

Jesus Christ suffered not so you wouldn't suffer but that when you suffer you would be like Him.

Growing Notes

1) Suffering is an inevitable part of life that is the result of living in a fallen world. If that is true why do you think we who live in America are more often surprised by suffering than not? Suffering will either make you or break you, but it will never leave you the same. What kind of impact has suffering had on your life?

2) Read Job 38:1-6; 40:1-8; 42:1-10. An Encounter with God in Suffering Will...1st Transforms My Perspective. How will this keep you from shallow answers to the complex problem of suffering? If God is omnipresent, omniscient & omnipotent in the worst of times doing thousands of things our finite minds can't comprehend (Job38-39, 40:6-41:34) then why do we get upset & have no peace (Job1:20-22; 2:10)?

3) An Encounter with God in Suffering Will...2nd Reveal My True Motives. What's the difference between loving God for the benefits He brings and loving God for Himself alone (Job1:9-11, 2:4-5)? What is the only way you will ever know & learn how to love God for Himself alone? Why do you think the more you grow in your love for God alone the less you'll be rattled by circumstances?

4) An Encounter with God in Suffering Will...3rd Give me an intimacy with God that I wouldn't trade for anything. How does the greatness and goodness of God give us a humble confidence (Job38:1)? What is humble confidence? God goes from being an idea to Job's most satisfying reality (Job42:5). Explain. How does the bible answer God's question in Job40:8 giving us a glimpse of the Gospel (2Cor5:21)? Jesus Christ suffered not so you wouldn't suffer but that when you suffer you would be like Him. Pray.