

Questions for study and reflection: Job sermon 3

Warming up

What's the best (or some of the best) advice you've ever received?

...and the worst?

What struck you most about the sermon from Sunday?

Opening the Bible

Turn to Job chapters 4 & 5

Why does Eliphaz mention Job's previous reputation as a wise man?
(4 vs 3-5)

What does Eliphaz claim in chapter 4, vs 12-17?

What are some of the images of security and abundance that Eliphaz uses in chapter 5, vs 20-26?

Why are some of these images so cruelly ironic, given Job's situation?

Going deeper

Can you think of any other examples (from the Bible, history, contemporary society- anywhere!) of people trying to fit God into their own understanding? Or try to 'flatten out' the problem of God and suffering in any way?

'trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.' (Proverbs 3:5) Does this that trying to make sense of God is wrong? Should we try to speak intelligibly about God?

Applying to our lives

When someone is suffering, we can help them with our presence, acts of service, and listening. What, as Christians, can we *say* to suffering people that is genuinely helpful? Can we think of examples? Does the fact we might get it wrong mean we shouldn't try?

