
Date: 5/29/22 **Series:** Job: Uncertainty, Suffering, and a Sovereign God

Message: How *Not* to be a Miserable Comforter

What Job's friends got right:

What Job's friends got wrong:

What we must always take into account in the face of suffering:

1.

2.

3.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Job 2:11-13; 4:1-8; 5:1-4; 8:4-6; 11:5-6; 16:2b; 42:7

1. What have you found to be most comforting to you when you've gone through seasons of suffering or grief? What is an example of something that someone said or did that was *not* comforting?
2. How would you summarize your own personal "theology of suffering" or explanation of why bad things sometimes happen to good people?
3. What do you discern is Eliphaz's, Bildad's, and Zophar's personal "theology of suffering"? What assumptions do they make?
4. What are some examples of biblical statements that people might make that are true in the abstract, but that are often applied inappropriately or insensitively when someone is going through suffering?
5. How would you evaluate the three friends' overall approach to comforting and counseling? What lessons stand out to you?
6. Why do you think that God was ultimately angry with Job's three friends?
7. How does reflecting upon the mystery of suffering and the uniqueness of each individual's personal experiences of suffering help us to become more effective comforters?
8. How does reflecting upon the complexity of human nature help us to become more effective comforters?
9. How does reflecting upon the meaning of God's grace and the cross help us to become more effective comforters?