

Eliphaz & Job

Chapters 4-7

Eliphaz

Presumably the oldest friend

- ✓ Bases his argument on what he has seen and experienced
- ✓ Made false assumptions about Job's character
- ✓ Boxed God into inflexible portrait

Job 4:2-8

Eliphaz' Argument

- ✓ You're getting what you deserve
- ✓ If you're innocent why are you in this predicament?
- ✓ No one suffers without deserving it
- ✓ Accuses Job of not seeking God
5:8

Weakness of Eliphaz' Argument

- All suffering is not punishment for sin (Jn 9:1-3; Lk 13:1-5)
 - John 16:33
- God is not limited by someone's personal experience:
 - Lk18:18-23 v. John 3:1-3

Lessons from Eliphaz

Assumptions lead to accusations which
cloud compassion

Shame blocks grace and hinders
recovery

Pride (the need to be right) blocks
mercy

Lessons from Job's reply

Sometimes the advice and counsel of others, even though well intentioned, only makes things worse

Every believer needs room to express their confusion and anger without judgment

Don't expect to understand everything that happens when it occurs

Bildad & Job

Chapters 8-10

Like Eliphaz, Bildad believes that
suffering is punishment for sin

8:4

Bildad bases his argument to Job
on tradition and historical
precedence
8:8-10

Bildad's Argument

1. Look Up – Character of God:
verses 3-7
2. Look Back – The Precedence of
the Past : verses 8-10
3. Look Around: The Evidence of
Nature: verses 11-19

Weakness of Bildad's Argument

- He lacks any compassion for Job's grief
- He uses too many illustrations and analogies
 - He boxes God into past precedence

Job's Reply

- I. If I could stand before God and argue my case, what would I say?
- II. Goes to God in utter sorrow and wailing

Zophar & Job

Chapters 11-14

Zophar is the most insulting to Job.
He bases his argument on angry
assumptions, uses insults and
sarcasm, and preaches at Job in
judgment.

Ch. 11

Zophar's Argument

- You're Guilty: verses 1-4
- You're Ignorant: verses 5-12
- You're sinful: verses 13-20

Weakness of Zophar's Argument

- He misquotes Job (vs. 4) – which shows he wasn't listening to Job
- His assumptions are contrary to God's declaration about Job

Weakness of Zophar's Argument

- He becomes abusive and deeming to Job
- Like most legalists, he feels it's his calling to discover and expose Job's real sins

Job has a Popeye moment – that's
all I can stand!

Chapters 12 – 13:20

Job's Reply

- ✓ God is in charge of everything – I know that
- ✓ Even though I can't explain it, I know He's in control of it
- ✓ He alone is the one before whom I will bow

Job's Reply

- ✓ You don't know what you're talking about
 - ✓ I don't receive that
- ✓ He then turns to God again

Job 23:1-10

Have you ever been in a place
where you couldn't find God?

In what ways do we search for
God?

What things block our ability to
find God?



Job's Last Defense

Chapters 27-31

First Things First

Job 27, 28