

Real Questions VI: “If God’s Good Why Is There Suffering?” – Job 30:26-31 & 42:1-6

Opening Questions

- 1) Suffering that comes in wave after wave can become unbearable for the strongest of believers. What would you do with someone who believes but is questioning the goodness of God because of the amount of suffering s/he is experiencing?

---

---

---

---

- 2) What do you do when the challenges of life begin to weigh you down?

---

---

---

---

---

Into the Text

- 1) The first half of today’s lesson begins after the last of Job’s friends tries to convince him that he must not be in right relationship with God if he’s experiencing so much suffering. What if, anything, is wrong with the belief system that good will always come to those who do good in the world?

---

---

---

---

- 2) God’s response to Job is that God is still in control and that Job is blocking God from giving him comfort during his time of need. In response, Job repents and claims that things are better now that he has seen God. Do you think Job actually saw God or do you believe that Job was able to experience God in a new way as result of his series of losses? Why do you feel this way?

Real Questions VI: “If God’s Good Why Is There Suffering?” – Job 30:26-31 & 42:1-6

---

---

---

---

---

3) Today’s lesson doesn’t answer the question about why there’s suffering. Instead, it moves us to ask a different question. This new question is this: since God is good and we are made in God’s image, why don’t God’s people do like God does and reach out to support, comfort and restore those who are devastated by grief, sickness and soul attacks?

---

---

---

---

4) Each human being who comes to sit with Job argues with him about his position. None of them offer him comfort before beginning their mission to correct the theological errors that they hear in Job’s cries for help. Within God’s argument, however, Job receives the assurance that God really is still in control. That message both comforts and silences Job. Do you think hearing and experiencing for themselves that God is still in control does the same thing for believers today who experience multiple kinds of suffering? Why do you believe this?

---

---

---

---

---