

Job – Part 15: Summary

Job; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 12-18-16

What are the lessons to be learned from Job?

1. Humanity can be divided between those who curse God and those who trust God.

'Cursing God' would represent Job's refusal to submit to God's sovereign rule. – Lawson

'Curse' here normally means 'to bless' but also means 'to greet' or 'to bid farewell' and thus, can mean 'to take one's leave of' or 'to renounce.' – Hywel

Habakkuk 3:16-19

2. Being a good comforter in a fallen world can be very challenging.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Matthew 7:1-5

James 1:19-20

3. Whatever we need to know to trust and love is what God will give us (or has given us).

John 21:18-23

4. Evil and suffering is not as black and white as we might think and no one gets a full explanation in this life because the reasons are too complex for us to comprehend.

Isaiah 55:9

5. But there are some helpful things that can be said in defense of the goodness of God in the face of inexplicable suffering.

Theodicy is the defense of God in light of evil and suffering.

12 Things to Help Us

- Fall: evil and suffering are the consequence of man's rebellion and therefore, none of us deserves anything else (Romans 5:12, Lamentations 3:39)
- Warning: evil and suffering are divine warnings to repent (Amos 4:6-11, Luke 13:1-5)

- Growth: evil and suffering are used to produce growth (James 1:2-4)
- Servant: evil and suffering are our servants for our greater happiness (Romans 8:31-37)
- Necessity: there is no evil and suffering in our world that is not necessary for the glory of God and the good of people (1 Peter 1:6)
- Proof: God uses suffering to prove our faith and therefore, prove His everlasting love for us (1 Peter 1:7; Romans 5:3-5; 8:35)
- Glory: evil and suffering is ordained by God because it will bring Him glory (John 9:1-3)
- Cross: whatever the reason for evil and suffering, it is not because of indifference or a lack of love on God's part (John 3:16)
- Divine Suffering: no one has suffered more than God in the Person of Jesus (Isaiah 52-53)
- Presence: God has promised to be with us 'even if' we must suffer and He will show us that He is enough (Daniel 3:16-18)
- Ocean: there are many things we don't know, so we shouldn't think we can fully comprehend all that God is doing through evil and suffering and why (Romans 11:33-36)

¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- Aslan: God is not tame, but He is good (Genesis 50:20)

“In religion we try to tame God, seeking to put him in our debt; we do many things so he has to bless us in the ways we want. . . . Religious people are just as hostile to the sovereignty of God as the irreligious. They just find religious ways to express it and hide it.” (70–71) - Tim Keller's excellent new book, *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* (Viking, 2016)