



# Loving God No Matter What

*A Brief Look at  
the Story of Job*

# The Book of Job

- *Justice vs. Sovereignty* – Does God always operate according to justice?
  - *Strict Justice* view:
    - If man does good, God will *always* bless him
    - If man does evil, God will *always* punish him
  - But why is an *innocent* man *suffering*?

# The Book of Job

- Job's Dilemma:

- "I know God is just."

- "I know I am innocent."

- "I am suffering."

- "Therefore, either:

1. God is not just (which I know He is), or

2. God is fickle (which I know He's not)."

# Chap. 3 - Job's Cry of Despair

- “Why was I even born?”
  - “Blot out the day of my birth” (3-10)
  - “Death would bring relief!” (11-19)
  - “What’s the point of living this way?” (20-26)
    - In the grip of depression
      - When we can’t make sense of life

## Chaps. 4-5 – Eliphaz’s Attempt at “Help”

- “Don’t resent God’s discipline”
  - “You reap what you sow” (4:7-11)
  - “No one is truly innocent” (4:12-26)
  - “God always rules justly” (5:8-16)
  - “Do not despise the discipline of the Lord” (5:17-27)
- All of these are true or right
  - But they don’t all apply to Job’s situation

# Chaps. 4-5 – Eliphaz’s Attempt at “Help”

1. God always punishes wrongdoing.
  2. You are being punished.
  3. You must have done something wrong.
- His supporting evidence:
    - “According to what I have seen” (4:8)
    - “a word was brought to me” (4:12)
    - “we have investigated it, and it is so” (5:27)

# Chaps. 4-5 – Eliphaz’s Attempt at “Help”

1. God always punishes wrongdoing.

- Yes, He does, but not always *right now*

2. You are being punished.

- No, it was *calamity* but not *punishment*

3. You must have done something wrong.

- No, there must be another explanation

# Chaps. 6-7 – Job

- “This is not discipline!”
  - “I am innocent” (6:10)
  - “You’re no help at all” (6:14-21)
  - “Show me my sin” (6:22-30)
- To God: “What have I done to You?” (7:20)
  - “Won’t you just pardon me?” (7:21)



## Chap. 8 – Bildad

- “Don’t impugn God’s justice”
  - “Does God pervert justice?” (2-7)
    - “Your sons deserved it” (4)
  - *His* supporting evidence:
    - “inquire of past generations” (8-10)
- “God will not reject a man of integrity, and He has obviously rejected you!” (20-22)

# Chaps. 9-10 – Job

- “This is *not* justice”
  - “God is too big to challenge” (9:2-19)
  - “God *is* unjust and arbitrary” (9:20-24)
  - “There is no umpire between us” (9:33)
- To God: “Is it right for You to oppress the innocent?” (10:3)
  - “You know I’m not guilty” (7)

# Chap. 11 – Zophar

- “Don’t accuse God of misconduct”
  - “God knows you are guilty” (2-6)
  - “Who are you to question God?” (7-12)
  - “Your only hope is repentance” (13-20)



## Chap. 12-14 – Job

- “Don’t misrepresent God”
  - “Keep your pop-theology to yourselves” (12:3)
  - “I know things about God, too” (12:13-13:2)
    - Focus on God’s supremacy
  - “Will you speak what is unjust for God?” (13:7)
  - “Be silent and let me speak” (13:13-19)
- Job then turns his attention to God directly

# Chap. 12-14 – Job

- To God:
  - “Please let me speak freely” (13:20-21)
  - “What have I done to deserve this?” (13:23)
- Morose lament (Chap. 14):
  - “Man is frail” (1-6)
  - “Death is final” (7-12)
  - “Or is it?” (13-17)
  - “For now, there is no hope of reprieve” (18-22)

# So What?

- How to not help someone in pain
  - Start with a wrong view of God
  - Jump to conclusions (see Prov. 18:13)
  - Make wild accusations
  - Refuse to listen
  - Kick'em when they're down

# So What?

- “What you believe determines how you live”
- Sometimes God brings circumstances into our lives to challenge what we believe
  - What “doesn’t make sense” in your life?
  - You don’t have to wrestle through it alone
  - The way out usually begins with *humility*