

“To Him that Is Afflicted”

Job 6:1-30

Job responds to Eliphaz in a dramatic fashion, pointing out that if these three truly wanted to be his friends, they would have shown more kindness (“pity”). We need to be careful we don’t get overly “spiritual” in our attempt to help those we call friends that we end up judging them for something they aren’t guilty of – that’s exactly what Job’s friends did to him.

I. THE HEAVINESS OF HIS AFFLICTION – VS. 1-10

A. Job starts out by pointing out that if his grief and pain were truly weighed against the accusations that Eliphaz had brought against him, Eliphaz wouldn’t have been so harsh – vs. 2-3.

“O that I had an equal judge! that would understand my case, and consider whether I have not cause for complaints” (Wesley).

B. Verse 4 shows just how much he was suffering, and also how he realized that his affliction was allowed by God Himself – and yet Job still didn’t blame Him.

Psalm 38:1-2

¹ O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

² For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.

Psalm 88:15-16

¹⁵ I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted.

¹⁶ Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off.

2 Corinthians 5:11

¹¹ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

C. Verses 5-7 are a bit of classic Hebrew poetry, showing, again, that the very thing that Job feared had come upon him.

D. Verses 8-10 are another attempt to show that he really did wish to die. It wasn't that he wanted to commit suicide, but rather that God would take him home to end his suffering. However, God will do things according to His will, and it wasn't His will that Job die yet.

II. THE HOPELESSNESS OF HIS AFFLICTION – VS. 11-13

A. In Job's eyes, considering that he had asked God to take him home, or end his affliction another way and He had not, there didn't seem to be much hope for a quick end to this affliction – vs. 11.

B. Eliphaz had accused Job of being a wimp in his first response to him, and told him to "suck it up and be a man" (4:5-16) – Job's response to that is found in verse 12, where he points out that he is not a stone or made of "brass" – he's a man, with all its frailties.

Psalm 103:13-16

¹³ Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

¹⁶ For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

C. It would seem (vs. 13) that Job thought Eliphaz was accusing him of being crazy or having gone so far into despair that he had lost his reason, so Job addresses that in pointing out that "wisdom" hadn't left him yet.

III. NO HUMAN HELP IN HIS AFFLICTION – VS. 14-30

A. Verse 14 is the text verse for this message – and it is the key to Job's first response – if Eliphaz had been a real friend (or, at least would have been acting like a real friend) then he would have had "pity" on Job – he would have shown kindness and empathy instead of malice and arrogance.

[Proverbs 17:17](#)

¹⁷ A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

[Romans 12:15](#)

¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

[Galatians 6:2](#)

² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

B. He also points out in that verse that Eliphaz "forsaketh the fear of the Almighty" – Job knew what was going on, but it would appear that Eliphaz had disregarded what Job had said (maybe because he thought he was crazy) about it being of the Lord.

C. Verses 15-21 Job seems to get angry at his friends (an attitude he repeats over and over during the course of his affliction) and points out that they were of no help, and that their time was coming, and they "are afraid" that it will happen to them.

Proverbs 19:7

⁷ All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

Matthew 26:31

³¹ Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

2 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

D. In verses 22-24 he says to Eliphaz that he didn't ask them to come, he didn't ask them for their advice, he didn't ask them for help, but since they were there, he tells him that if they had anything to help him with, "he was all ears" (vs. 24)

E. Verses 25-26 give us a very important truth when dealing with someone who is being afflicted (or, who has lost a loved one, or who has just received very bad news, etc.) – if you have something good and helpful to say, then, by all means say it. But if you don't, then don't say anything – it won't help.

Proverbs 16:21–24

²¹ The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

²² Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³ The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

²⁴ Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 25:11

¹¹ A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

F. Verses 27-30 - He ends this portion of his reply with a challenge – “you can see my situation, you know me, I’m an ‘open book’ – am I lying? Prove if there is sin in my life, and I’ll make it right – otherwise, leave me be.”

Conclusion: How we help those that are in trouble, those that are afflicted will determine what kind of a friend we are. Make sure when we try and help that we don't try and say more than we should. And, if we are the ones in the trial, make sure we are as kind as we can be under the circumstances to those that are trying to help.