



## Week of November 4, 2018: Enlarge your Soul with Grief and Loss

### Discussion Questions Set #1

“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.” (Job 1:20-22)

1. Turning towards pain is completely counterintuitive but quite often our greatest spiritual growth comes through times of challenge, strife and pain. What issues does this reality cause for our growth in emotional or spiritual health?
2. Do you agree that an experience of grief, loss or suffering can be a pathway to spiritual or emotional growth? Have you ever experienced this in your following of Jesus? Share if comfortable.
3. We took a good long look at the story of Job in our time together and came to understand that Job deeply and profoundly mourned his losses, yet at the same time, we are told that he worshipped God. In the center of his profound grief, Job praised God and refused to “charge God with wrongdoing”. Does Job’s ability to respond to tragedy with praise of God surprise you? What is your “go-to” response when faced with grief or loss?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.” (Job 1:1)

1. Job’s suffering came out of nowhere and had absolutely no connection to his character; the law of karma – good comes to those who are good, evil to those who are evil – is proven completely false in Job’s case. How do you process the fact that an innocent and upright man experienced such horrible suffering?
2. In circumstances like this, we often cry out “that’s not fair, God”. Though nearly natural, this is not a particularly helpful place to go because we either conclude that God is sovereign, but not good or He’s good, but not sovereign. What comes from rejecting God’s goodness while maintaining His sovereignty? What happens to our understanding of God if we reject His sovereignty, yet maintain His goodness?
3. Is it possible God is both good and sovereign and bad things do happen to “good” people, yet somehow God can even use these circumstances to result in growth and God’s increased glory? Discuss.

### Discussion Questions Set #3

“Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24).

In sermon, we learned that Job reveals two specific practices/behaviours that permit such difficult circumstances to result in spiritual growth.

1. Job paid attention to both his pain AND God’s presence in his pain. How does acknowledging our pain and grief (in authentic and appropriate ways) and also recognizing God’s presence in this pain help us to properly process difficult experiences? What might happen if we only acknowledge our pain without recognizing God’s presence in our pain?
2. Job embraced his limits and practiced humility. As great a man as Job was, he very clearly understood that he was not God. How do you think humility permits difficult circumstances to result in spiritual growth? How does acknowledging God’s sovereignty assist us in having a proper view of pain, grief and suffering?