



Study Guide

Spring 2012 Sermon/Study Series

www.rbcpc.org/the-book-of-job

“Pain and Prayer”

Week #3
June 16/17, 2012

Next week: June 23 & 24 Still Friends?

Scripture Reference
Job Series – Week #3
“Pain and Prayer”

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[e] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Notes:

Job 42:7-10

After the Lord had said these things to Job , he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸ So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the Lord told them; and the Lord accepted Job's prayer.

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Notes:

Scripture

Ephesians 4:25-27

1. What does it mean to “hold firmly to the faith?”
2. What are some of the ways Jesus was tempted that you also have experienced in your life?
3. Do you approach the Throne of God with confidence?
4. Is there a time when you have experienced God’s mercy and grace? Does this experience cause you to be more confident in approaching God?

Job 3:1-4

1. God was angry with Job’s friends. Have you ever given advice to others that was not what the Bible teaches?
2. Have you ever had others give you advice that was not in keeping with the Bible’s teaching? Did you heed the advice? What was the outcome of the decision?
3. Job prayed for his friends. Has God urged you to pray for others who may have misled you?

Sermon

1. “Job’s greatest blessings were not the restored fortunes, but his new gifting of compassionate prayer to offer healing for others.” Would you have been able to view the blessings despite the heartache that Job had experienced?
2. Is it difficult for you to show humility, vulnerability and weakness to others? Why?
3. Have you ever felt that God was asking you to pray for others? How did your prayers for others also heal/help you?
4. Job offered grace in his prayer for his friends who had given poor advice. Is God asking you to offer grace to someone who has misled you?

5. In prayer are you willing to “snuggle into the arms of the Lord and listen to the heartbeat of Jesus?” Quiet your heart and reflect on Job and his willingness to pray for his friends, to allow God to be God and have His will in Job’s life, and the Bible’s truth that we are to approach God with confidence and accept His grace.

Life Application

Bruce states the term “wounded healer” comes from the writings of Henri Nouwen. It is one who “carry the scars from being wounded by life (and) are called by God (to) deeper ministries of compassion and healing.” Are you a “wounded healer?” Have you experienced difficult times that later you could use as a testimony to help others? How have the difficult times in your life later turned into blessings?

Prayer

Pray that God will reveal to you how you can help others through the trials of your life. Thank God for the difficult times and ask Him to guide you to use the pain and turn it into prayer for others. Pray for others who may need to receive your grace. Praise God for the dark times in your life and praise Him for the glorious blessings that have resulted. Pray!