

GREATEST COMBACKS

PART 5: JOB, COMING BACK FROM SUFFERING (2 OF 3 WEEKENDS)

Book of Job
Pastor Daniel Hahn
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MESSAGE NOTES

Last Last week we met Job.

1. Stages
2. Tests
3. Friends

Welcome to Job's small group.

Empathy is getting down in that deep dark hole with someone and saying, "you're not alone." — Brené Brown

In every interaction with another human being, we have the opportunity to bless or curse. We bless by listening and entering into conversation. We bless with eye contact. With patience. By not finishing their sentences for them. By staying in their "frame of reference" and not self-referencing. — Regi Campbell

4. Debates
5. Response

Two realities we see in Job's story:

- Reasoning in the midst of our pain is always limited.

I've spent my life denying mystery, when I thought I had embraced it. The urge to figure life out and make it work dies hard. — Larry Crabb

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." — Isaiah 55:8 – 9

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? — Romans 11:33 – 34

- Recalling the truth of God’s character, even in our bewilderment, can help recalibrate our hope.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!
— Proverbs 3:5 – 7 (The Message)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you recall from Part 1 of our 3 part series in Job?
- After a week, the friends launch into their own perspectives on why Job is suffering. In what ways do you think that kind of a response can be damaging to someone who is suffering?
- Job’s friends are convinced that great suffering must be related to great sin. What evidence would you give for demonstrating the fallacy of that conclusion?
- In what ways might followers of God suffer more because of their faith? In what ways might our suffering be relieved to a degree because of faith?
- Job did a lot of talking about God with his friends and talking to God about his problems. What difference does community make when we’re suffering? How does prayer figure in?
- Can you share about a time or season in your own life when you’ve endured suffering without any quick or simple solutions? Can you see any ways in which God used that season to bring about any positive results in your life?
- We all want resolution to our painful and bewildering issues. Take some time to consider how Romans 5:2 – 4 and James 1:2 – 4 might inform our thinking on this issue.
- How did Jesus react to suffering? Consider Luke 22:42 and 1 Peter 2:23.
- Why do you think a “theology of suffering” is important for those who follow Christ?
- Is there one key idea from our discussion you’d like to be thinking about more this week?