

GREATEST COMEBACKS

PART 4: JOB COMING BACK FROM SUFFERING (1 OF 3 WEEKENDS)

Book of Job
Pastor Daniel Hahn
October 13/14, 2018

MESSAGE NOTES

A story we all live in one way or another:

Each heart knows its own bitterness. — Proverbs 14:10

1. Stages

2. Tests

The best disposition for praying, is that of being desolate, forsaken, stripped of everything. — St. Augustine

3. Friends

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. — Romans 12:15

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

What we know:

Everyone suffers here.

No one rides for free. — Anne Lamott

Empathy is like a cup of cold clear water to someone dying of thirst.

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

As I reflect on the story of my loss, I have learned that, though entirely unique (as all losses are), it is a manifestation of a universal experience. Sooner or later all people suffer loss, in little doses or big ones, suddenly or over time, privately or in public settings. Loss is as much a part of normal life as birth, for as surely as we are born into this world we suffer loss before we leave it. It is not, therefore, the experience of loss that becomes the defining moment in our lives. ... It is how we respond to loss that matters. The response will largely determine the quality, the direction, and the impact of our lives. — Gerald Sittser, *A Grace Disguised*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What impacted you personally from the message last weekend?
- How would you describe the man named Job in your own words?
- Job faced incredible suffering. What are some ways you've suffered that cause you to identify, at least to some degree, with Job's feelings of loss?
- Based on the first couple chapters of the book that bears his name, why was Job subjected to all these afflictions?
- When Job's friends show up, they initially show great compassion. How would you define empathy? How does it differ from sympathy?
- Why do you think many people have a tendency to talk too much or provide simplistic answers when others are suffering?
- Why is being present with people and trying to feel what they feel one of the greatest gifts we can give people?
- What are some practical ways to live out Galatians 6:2? In what way are we fulfilling the "law of Christ?"
- Check out 2 Corinthians 1:3 – 4. In what ways do you see God comforting us so that we can become a comfort to others?
- This week would you take some time in the book of Job? It can feel long and repetitive—but interestingly that's how suffering feels. Do you think the writer of Job is trying to make a point with all the repetition?
- How do you think this series might benefit you (or someone you know) in practical ways?