



August 16, 2020

*“Though he slay me,
yet will I hope in
him;
I will surly defend
my ways to his
face.”
Job 13:15*

I. Seven days of Sympathy? (Job 2:11 – 13)

- A. Is it OK to ask why? To grieve? To be frustrated?
- B. Many who suffer are confused and struggle with it
- C. Job’s friends come to “sympathize” and “comfort” Job
- D. This begins the seeking for the answer – Why did this happen to Job?

II. Sources of Suffering

- A. Four most common sources of suffering:
 - 1. Sin or mistakes in our lives
 - 2. Sin or mistakes in others’ lives (fallen world in general)
 - 3. Natural forces out of our control
 - 4. Spiritual discipline by God (Heb. 12:5b – 8; Jam. 1:2-4)
- B. Job’s four friends believe that Job has some hidden sin that has caused this trouble (chaps 4 – 37)
“retribution theology”—every act receives just punishment or reward in this present life, so we should be able to tell who is righteous or wicked by whether they are visibly blessed or cursed on earth.
- C. Job’s testimony and God’s testimony disprove this (twice) (1:8b, 2:3, chap 31)

III. Special Source of Suffering: “For Righteousness Sake” (Job 13:15)

- A. Job reveals to us the costs of living a righteous life: Persecution! (Job 13:15)
- B. Job suffers because he is “righteous”
- C. How many since Job have suffered for doing what is right?
- D. Jesus introduces this truth in the last “beatitude” (Matt. 5:10 – 12)