



“WHY God?”

9.24.23

Common Sense says: God is God and He could just step in and eradicate all evil and suffering. Everybody thrives.

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.** He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. *Job 1:1 1-3 NIV*

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. *Job 1:6 NIV*

...“Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” *Job 1:8–11 NIV*

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 NIV*

Then the Lord said to Satan, **“Have you considered my servant Job?** There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.” “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.” *Job 2:3–5 NIV*

Do we want God to be merciful or do we want God to be just?

Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds in the sky. Destruction and Death say, “Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.” God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the Heavens. When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it. And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.” *Job 28:20–28 NIV*

How do you think Job 28 prepares us to better engage the difficult topics of evil, pain, and suffering. How do you think wisdom would respond to those difficult conversations?

For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

1. If someone asked you what wisdom was, how would you explain it to them? How would you differentiate it from things like knowledge, or common sense?
2. What are some examples of difficult problems that common sense could not solve? Think about areas of expertise that you have. What sets apart expertise from common knowledge on a topic.
3. For much of the book of Job, as Job is processing all the suffering he’s endured, he’s surrounded by three friends whose common sense suggests Job must have done something to deserve this (even though he had not). When have you ever given or received bad advice?
4. Read all of Job 28 slowly and put the text into your own words. What kind of picture is the author painting? What kind of point do you think they are trying to make?
5. Job 28 is a poetic rebuttal to the “common sense” approach of Job’s friends regarding his maladies, with a focus on wisdom. What do you think the author/speaker means when they focus on wisdom being the “fear of the Lord.”
6. Do you think God wants people to be afraid of Him? Why do you think this might be wisdom?

If you’d like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we’ll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)