

Let God Be God
Is It Better to Die? (Part 1)
Job 3-7

Many of our families have been impacted by depression. Many people today are dealing with so much pain in their lives that they ask themselves, "Is it better to die?" We don't always have answers for our loved ones who are suffering this way. But God knew the heartache and brokenness that would accompany the curse of living in this world. So, He has Job ask that same question on our behalf.

1. When we _____ helpless, it is because we _____ helpless.
2. It is easier to speak to the suffering of _____ than to our own.
3. We assume others suffer because of _____, while we suffer because of _____.
4. We need to make sure that a word from the Lord is _____ a word from the Lord.
5. To think we are _____ sinners is a lie meant to destroy us.

Eliphaz sees God only as a God of justice. He sees nothing of the love, compassion, forgiveness, and patience of God. Because of his unbalanced and incomplete theology, the limited truth about the nature of man is used to perpetuate a lie about the nature of God. Regardless of the cause of our suffering, we know that God loves us and is preparing and perfectly preserving a place for those who believe in His Son, Jesus.

Reflection

Never underestimate the power of words to encourage people in the battles of life. How have your prior experiences been used to speak truth into the lives of others? Do you find it helpful for others to speak truth to you or are you resentful? We need to be careful because our words can nourish those who are weak and encourage those who are defeated. But they can also hurt those who are broken and only add to their burdens, so we must be careful with what we say and how we say it. Eliphaz seemed to be a great deal of emphasis on God as an inflexible lawgiver. How is this approach similar to the way the Pharisees related to Jesus? What does this approach misunderstand about God?