

Human suffering is varied: sometimes the causes of pain are obvious, and sometimes God's purpose in allowing it clear. But Job found himself in a kind of agony that was beyond all proportion, and one which he was at a loss to explain. For instance, he spends most of ch.10 testing and rejecting different hypotheses as to why God might have allowed the tragedy of chapters 1–2: “Let me know why you contend against me!” (10:2). Job suffered in a peculiarly excruciating and confusing way, and his story addresses that kind of experience. However, this doesn't limit the relevance of the book for us, for we all relate to suffering and asking questions about God and what God is doing.

What is it about suffering that creates the most questions for you?

### **Read Job 1**

1. What qualities in Job's character do you find most admirable?
2. What do you make of the dialogue between God and Satan about Job? What questions does it create?
3. How does Job's handling of his losses affect the way you think about your wealth and material possessions? How does the story challenge the prosperity gospel, which suggests that earthly success is a sign of God's favour? Why is it important to avoid certain

4. In comparison with other religions, what role does faith in Jesus play in understanding and dealing with inexplicable loss or suffering? 2 Cor 12:9. Eph 2:8
5. What are the different ways people react to adversity? How do you think you would have reacted if you were in Job's situation? In what way have you responded to adversity in your life?
6. How can you apply the principle of Job's integrity in your personal, professional, or spiritual life?
7. How does Job's reaction to his trials in v20-21 influence your understanding of worship and relationship with God?
8. Does Job's response to his losses serve as a model for facing trials in life? What other characters in the Bible serve as good role models?
9. How can Job, and this reading, guide you in supporting others going through difficult times?
10. In what way does the chapter encourage you to react to losses and setbacks in your life?
11. In what ways does this chapter invite you to reflect on your relationship with God, particularly during times of adversity?

## Prayer Points

Pray for the ongoing work with our community meals as we serve and provide space for those who we support. Pray for the volunteers as they prepare meals, listen to others and serve.

Pray around the world for countries, communities and families affected by multiple disasters and conflicts – for sustained recovery and the ability to move on and rebuild lives. Pray for the part BMS plays in enabling recovery from disasters.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

October 27<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Defiant Faith:

### In the midst of suffering:

What is a challenge in your life right now? Could it be a broken relationship, a family issue, your health, the health of someone you love, financial problems, a traumatic event, the death of a loved one, a longing unfulfilled, long-term depression, or an ache for someone to know Jesus. It might be something self-inflicted, or maybe you're suffering because of someone else's mistake, poor judgement, or moral failure? Perhaps it's the pressure of a new job, the business you run, marriage, or child - or some combination of those things. In those various avenues of life, do we ask, "where is God?" and "why is this happening to me?". It can be helpful to ask questions and take wisdom from others. However, what gives real power in the midst of challenging times is knowing who God is and who He is not.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001