

Day 2

Today's Scripture reading: Job 2:11-13 (NLT)

“When three of Job’s friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. Their names were Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. 12 When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.”

Backstory:

The first two chapters of this Book explain Job’s circumstance (Job 1:6-2:10). Take a moment to read those verses so you can get an idea of what Job endured.

Job experienced incredible loss and suffering because God wanted to prove to Satan that Job would trust Him no matter what. Job and his friends never knew why Job was suffering in the first place, and they struggled to make sense of it all. At first, Job’s friends were supportive, but then they offered their unhelpful opinions of why Job was suffering. In the end, Job rested on God’s goodness and maintained his faith in God. The message of this book is clear and sobering: when our human perspective leaves us with no explanation for disaster and pain, trust God.

Think about it:

When tragedy strikes, many of us want to *do* something...anything to relieve the pressure and ease the pain. We want to fix and mend---be a part of the solution---and make ourselves useful. That’s what Job’s friends did. They sprang into action after hearing of Job’s loss. They traveled to meet with Job... to mourn with him and provide a sense of comfort. And for the first week, they provided care to Job in a profound way.

The irony is that instead of *doing*, they were simply *being*. They sat with Job, and without words, they served their friend. It’s okay to be present, even when

we don't have words. In fact, if you keep reading, Job's friends finally speak and they have no idea what to say. They guess and blame, but they don't have God's perspective, and they aren't very helpful. The most help they provided Job was when they didn't say a word. The most help they gave was when they crouched down to Job's level to sit in the pain with him.

The next time we encounter someone who is grieving (including ourselves), let's not underestimate the power of silence. Let's not be quick to speak (James 1:19), but instead be quick to listen. And as we bring life to those around us during crisis, let's be ok with *being* in addition to *doing*.

DAY TWO JOURNAL

What does this say about God? _____

What does this say about people? _____

What am I going to do about it? I will _____
