



PART 2: WHO'S IN YOUR CORNER?

Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Who do you look to for help when you're suffering?

READ: *Job 42:7-10 (ESV)*

FOCUS: God takes friendship very seriously. In this passage He rebukes Job's friends for not speaking rightly about God, misrepresenting Him to Job.

OBSERVE:

- **Friends who lift each other up do it because God expects us to.**
 - Job's friends are beating him down instead of lifting him up.
 - They don't pray for Job, but only tell him why they think he is being punished.
- **Friends who lift each other up are present and open.**
 - Job's friends showed up and stayed with him, even if their words were not helpful. They were present.
 - Job did not hide his pain and grief. When you hide your pain and grief people can't help you. You are pushing the truth away.
- **Friends who lift each other up are careful with words and judgement.**
 - Words are some of the most important ways you can lift someone up. We should speak to them the way we want to be spoken to.

- Moralism as a response to suffering is an attempt to control God, by saying if a person is good they should not suffer, and if they suffer they must have sinned. Job's friends were using moralism to judge him.
- Suffering does happen to righteous people. Jesus is the greatest example of righteous suffering. Not all suffering is because of sin.

■ There is no other friend like Jesus.

- Job lived before Jesus and didn't have access to Jesus the way we do now.
- Look to Jesus and receive His friendship. Look also to fellow Christians for friendship.
- Repent if you've been a friend like Job's friends.

REFLECT:

- Have you represented God well in your friendships?
- Do you show up for your friends?

TAKE ACTION:

- Contact a friend who has most represented Jesus to you and tell them thank you.
- Pray to better represent Jesus in your friendships.

PRAY: *Father, we thank You that friendship is important to You. Help us to represent You well when we have a friend who is suffering so that we bring comfort and encouragement. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

