

Old Testament Windows

Session Eight

“We are never more in danger of stumbling than when we think we know where we are going.” (Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark, p.146)

Read Job 1:1-12

- 1) What questions does this passage make in your mind?
- 2) How does God come across in this passage? How does Job come across in this passage? How does Satan come across in this passage?
- 3) Throughout history, people have wrestled with the problem of evil and why God allows suffering. Three possible solutions would be:
 - (1) God is not all-powerful and therefore cannot prevent suffering.
 - (2) God is not completely just and good and therefore allows the innocent to suffer.
 - (3) Those who suffer are not innocent and therefore deserve their fate.

Respond to each of those possibilities.

4) Have you ever wondered why God was permitting you to suffer? How did you handle that? Why do you think bad things happen to people?

5) Try to put yourself in Job's place. How might you have felt as wave after wave of disaster struck?

6) Who are the main characters in this story? What are their respective roles?

7) Is it appropriate to think of “darkness” as a character in the story? Why or why not?

8) Job’s three “friends” seem unable to ease his mind. How has someone supported you during tough times? What are some other ways of supporting someone? Describe a time when you wanted to help, but didn’t know how to do so. How did you feel?

9) God appears in a whirlwind and asks Job a long series of questions in chapter 38. What seems to be the main point of all the questions God asks?

10) What lessons are to be taken from this story?