

The Book of Job Home Group Notes 4

Job 8:1-14:22 God in the dock

Set the scene: How would you respond to this?

“Where have I gone wrong? I’ve always been nice to people, I don’t drink, dance or swear. I even keep kosher just to be on the safe side. I’ve done everything the Bible says, even the stuff that contradicts the other stuff! What more can I do? I feel like I’m coming apart here! I just want to yell out but I can’t dang diddily do dang do damn diddily darn do it!”

Ned Flanders, *The Simpsons*

Hear from God: Read Job 8:1-22

1. Does Bildad start in a sensitive and understanding way?
2. Is he on the side of Eliphaz or of Job?

God is fair....therefore repent?!

3. Why does Bildad think Job is suffering?
4. How do people say something similar today?
5. In 20-23 Bildad seems to be saying that things will even out. Do you hear people say such things today?
6. Is it true that God will even things out? If so, when?
7. What has Bildad got right?
8. What has Bildad got wrong?
9. Is Bildad right about Job?
10. What does a worldview according to karma teach?
11. Why are Bildad’s words so damaging?

Job’s response: this life is not fair, things do not even out

12. **Read Job 9:1-35** Job is subtler than Bildad! He starts with ironic agreement (9:1-20) then reveals his heart (21-35). Why does Job wish to meet God in the courtroom (32f)?
13. If Bildad insists that God does not pervert justice and says that God does not strengthen the hands of evildoers what is Job’s response (10:3)?
14. And what effect does Bildad’s ‘friendly help’ have on Job (10:4-22)? Has it left him in a better place?

Apply these things to your life

15. Why is it important to have ‘good theology?’
16. What does it mean that God is fair?
17. How does Bildad’s framework leave no room for Jesus?
18. Do you find yourself saying things like ‘things always even out’ or ‘look to God and he’ll put things right’ as a way of trying to encourage friends in trouble? Why are they wrong and potentially damaging things to say?
19. Do you believe God will bring justice? If so, when will he bring justice? How will he bring justice?

Prayer ideas

- Thank God that he is fair
- Ask for help in understanding and ministering to those people whose views on justice are much influenced by their experience of suffering
- Thank God that undeserved suffering happened to Jesus to make us righteous before God
- Thank God that he is just and merciful