

The Book of Job Home Group Notes 6 **Job 22:1 – 27:23 The place of testing**

Set the scene: Do you like tests? Have you ever liked tests?

Hear from God: Read Job 19:21-29 – share it between those who like reading – remind yourselves of the clearest statement of the various thoughts of Job in these trying times.

Taking offence too easily means we fail to gain from testing

1. **Read Proverbs 17:9.** Had you realised it was the faithful godly thing in relationships that we do not take offence when people might offend us. Instead we are to do the opposite of taking offence. Does that seem wise to you?
2. How easily do you take personal offence in a disagreement or argument? Is this good or bad?
3. In his last speech Zophar is offended by Job. Offended that Job is so confident that he will be vindicated and his friends liable to God's judgement. **Read Job 20:1-3** Should Zophar take offence? Would you?
4. Do you think it is true that many people in our Western society are quick to take offence in conversation? or debate? or just in response to someone else's statement? Have you any general or specific examples?
5. How does taking offence help things forward?
6. How does taking offence set things back?

Job is learning that that suffering brings testing which is good

1. What good reasons for suffering can you think of?
2. What reason is mentioned by Job in 23:10?

3. See these verses and see how much you agree that the Lord regards this aspect of suffering as good: Isa 48:8-11, Jeremiah 9:7-9, Daniel 12:10, Psalm 66:8-12, 1 Pet 1:6-9
4. The last set of speeches from Job's friends are all a bit of a step too far. Eliphaz, who had been polite and gentle in ch.4 and then disturbed by Job's reply while repeating his same argument in ch.15, now becomes rather abusive while again repeating the same pious argument. Bildad fails to engage with Job's reply and signs off with a short sharp restatement of two other points which miss the point & depict Job as a maggot and a worm. Zophar says nothing, probably the wisest of the three. Job continues, sarcastic then confident then in bitterness of spirit. Does anyone come out of these conversations well?
5. Can conversations go on too long? Are you involved in conversations which go on too long? Why are they too long? How does it happen? What can we do about it?

Apply these things to your life

6. Look back in your life. Are there times of testing or suffering for which you are grateful to God?
7. Read 1 Cor.10:10-13. How might we have a better attitude to testing? And to suffering?

Prayer ideas

- Ask the Lord for help in being more honest in prayer
- Pray that we might be more willing not to take offence
- Thank the Lord for times of testing if you can
- Pray for those in a season of testing now
- Pray for our invitation events coming up