



# Life Is Hard, People Aren't Helping, and God's Not Home!

Lesson 10 • Job 4-7

*Have you ever had a friend try to help you through a hard time, only to discover that you felt worse after they left than before they came?*

*What should you do when life is hard, people are no help, and God's not home?*

The Miserable Comfort of Eliphaz the Experienced Moralist <i>Job 4-5</i>	The Persevering Response of Job the Blameless Sufferer <i>Job 6-7</i>
How to Not Help a Hurting Friend Four Easy Steps to Getting Happy, Healthy, and Wealthy	When Life Is Hard, People Aren't Helping, and God's Not at Home Reject Easy Answers and Heartless Explanations

Four Easy Steps to Getting Happy, Healthy, and Wealthy (or Your Best life Now the Easy Way)

## 1. RECEIVE Wise Counsel from One with More Experience than You! (4:3-6)

*"Stop your whining and listen up to someone who is old enough to have experienced far more than you and, therefore, knows more than you!"*

## 2. REMEMBER the Law of the Harvest: You Always Reap What You Sow! (4:7-5:7)

*The "Reap What You Sow" Principle of Retribution Theology: Everybody always gets what they deserve before they die!*

► Everyone REAPS what they sow—the law of the harvest can never broken! (4:7-11)

*"Job's friend did not deny that the wicked fool prospers temporarily (5:3), but he believed that before a person dies, God will punish him for his sins." ~Tom Constable*

► Everyone is SINFUL—so no one is so blameless as to be completely sinless! (4:12-21)

- My personal experience tells me so!
- My spiritual encounter told me so!

► THEREFORE, everyone SUFFERS for his or her sin! (5:1-7)

## 3. REPENT in Light of God's Discipline of Your Sin! (5:8-16)

*Plead your case before God who is powerful and wise beyond measure to help those in need!*

## 4. REAP More Prosperity and Less Adversity After You Sow Some Humility! (5:17-27)

*Ironically, Eliphaz is siding with the Adversary against God by tempting Job to serve God for **WHAT** he can get and not **WHO** God is in both prosperity and adversity!*

Where Did Eliphaz the Experienced Moralist Go Wrong?

### 1. Eliphaz made the WRONG ASSUMPTIONS.

- 1) ALL adversity/suffering is God's punishment for sin.
- 2) There MUST be hidden sin in your life (thus the shift from comforters to accusers!)
- 3) The goal is to ask: "How can I get out of this to get more from God?" **versus** "What does God want to do through this for His glory?"
- 4) I have the wisdom and experience to judge another person's relationship with God by what they are experiencing, whether it is adversity or prosperity."

### 2. Eliphaz took the WRONG APPROACH.

- 1) EVERYTHING can be fixed with four easy steps.

- 2) My past **EXPERIENCES** trump your present experience.
- 3) I have God in a **BOX** that is tied tight with my own limited wisdom (knowledge, experience, and understanding).
- 4) I will fix the despair of your heart with **EXPLANATIONS** for your head.

3. Eliphaz had the **WRONG ATTITUDE**.

- 1) He showed no **sympathy to** Job or **empathy with** Job.

*"You do not heal a broken heart with logic; you heal a broken heart with love." ~Warren Wiersbe*

- 2) He applied truth in a rigid manner based on the assumption that he knew everything there was to know about God's sovereignty as well as Job's integrity and adversity.

*"Eliphaz as a counselor is a supreme negative example. Great truths misapplied only hurt more those who are already hurting." ~Elmer Smick*

*"Eliphaz is a dangerous man who speaks the truth at the wrong time and with the wrong spirit." ~Derek Thomas*

Rejecting Easy Answers and Heartless Explanations

1. **PERSEVERE** through Your Despair. (6:1-10)

Job: *"My cry of despair is still justified: I still wish I could die!"*

2. **PROTEST** Foolish Counsel about Your Despair. (6:11-30)

Job: *"Your miserable comfort is no help at all!"*

- You counsel with the **wrong attitude**: *You have no heart!* (6:11-20)
- You counsel with the **wrong approach**: *Fear-driven, shame-based, and man-centered!* (6:21-23)  
*"The...three are anything but quiet as they unload the truck of criticism and guilt, shame and blame on their friend." ~Charles Swindoll*
- You counsel based on the **wrong assumption**: *I have sinned and deserve everything I am getting!* (6:24-30)

3. **PURSUE** God in Your Despair. (7:1-21)

Job: *"God, leave me alone because my misery is great and my life is short!"*

*"And so I'm not keeping one bit of this quiet, I'm laying it all out on the table; my complaining to high heaven is bitter, but honest." Job 7:11 (MSG)*

Job Was Mistaken about the Source of His Misery and the Shortness of His Life (21)

*"Why then do You not pardon my transgression And take away my iniquity?"*

*"For now I will lie down in the dust; And You will seek me, but I will not be."*

*"As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." James 5:11 (NIV)*

What to Do When Life Is Hard, People Aren't Helping, and God's Not Home?

- There are times when the words of others only make our troubles worse...**TELL THEM** *they are not helping you!*
- There are times when the ways of God only make us more confused...**TRUST HIM** *anyway!*

**TRUST GOD'S GRACE** even when *you can't see His face ~ and ~ TRUST GOD'S PLAN* even when *you can't see His hand.*

<b>PERSONAL PROJECT for FRIENDS</b> Who Want to Help the Hurting	<b>PERSONAL PROJECT for SUFFERERS</b> Who Are Hurting
<b>Stand in front of a mirror, shrug your shoulders, and say:</b> <i>"I don't know. I just don't know. I don't have all the answers, but I know the One who does! You can trust Him even when He seems not at home."</i>	<b>Kneel before God and cry out:</b> <i>"I don't know. I just don't know. I don't have all the answers, but I know You do! I will trust You! When I can't see Your face, I will trust Your grace and when I can't see Your hand, I will trust Your plan!"</i>