



Recovering from Spiritual Malpractice

Lesson 12 • Job 11–14

MALPRACTICE is a type of negligence in which **doing the wrong thing** or **doing the right thing wrongly** or **failure to do the right thing** by a professional, under a duty to act, fails to follow generally accepted professional standards, and that breach of duty is the cause of injury to a another person who suffers for it.

Medical malpractice can be deadly but spiritual malpractice is even more deadly!

Spiritual malpractice can result in eternal damage to others and the sovereign judgment from God.

Job Has Survived the Spiritual Malpractice of His First Two Friends

- Eliphaz the **EXPERIENCED SOUL SURGEON** whose cure for everything is “Repent, because you always reap what you sow before you die!”
- Bildad the **TRADITIONAL SOUL SURGEON** whose brutal bedside manner tried to beat Job into being blessed by God!

Now Job Is about to Go Under the Knife of...

- Zophar the **ZEALOUS SOUL SURGEON** who knows everything there is know about God Almighty, whose ways are beyond human understanding!

The Miserable Comfort of Zophar the Zealous Rationalist <i>Job 11</i>	The Persevering Response of Job the Blameless Sufferer <i>Job 12–14</i>
<i>How to NOT Help a Hurting Friend Suffering from Spiritual Malpractice</i>	<i>Turning to God for the Cure Recovering from Spiritual Malpractice</i>

Suffering from Spiritual Malpractice by a Zealous Soul Surgeon

Stab 1 You Are Absolutely GUILTY! (11:1-4)

“Stop mocking God (and us) by claiming your blamelessness and start confessing your sinfulness!”

- Spiritual malpractice **BEGINS** with telling people they are guilty of sin and need to repent, *when in reality God says they are in right relationship with him.*

Stab 2 You Are Woefully IGNORANT! (11:5-12)

“The reason you think you are blameless is because you don’t know half of what God does about your sin!”

- Spiritual malpractice **GETS WORSE** when spiritual surgeons think they know more than every one else, including God!

Stab 3 You Are Secretly SINFUL! (11:13-20)

“Stop covering your sin and start confessing it! Turn from your sin and your suffering will cease and be completely forgotten! Repent and let the good times roll!”

- Spiritual malpractice can be **ETERNALLY DEADLY** when spiritual surgeons offer the wrong cure for sin and suffering!

The Wrong Diagnosis: Not Every Suffering Soul Is Due to Sin Sickness

The Wrong Prescription: Where Did Zophar the Zealous Soul Surgeon Go Wrong?

- 1) Like Eliphaz and Bildad, Zophar made the **wrong DIAGNOSIS** (Assumptions).
- 2) Like Eliphaz and Bildad, Zophar offered the **wrong PRESCRIPTION** (Approach).
- 3) Like Eliphaz and Bildad, Zophar had the **wrong BEDSIDE MANNER** (Attitude).

Recovering from Spiritual Malpractice – Job 12–14

FIRST, Job Accuses Zophar of Spiritual Malpractice: The Wrong Diagnosis and Wrong Prescription. (12:1-13:19)

THEN, Job Asks for a Second Opinion from the Great Physician Himself, God Almighty. (13:20-14:22)

1. Make Sure the “Diagnosis” Is Accurate and the “Medicine” Is Biblical!

How to Respond When You Are Under the Scalpel of Criticism

1) Carefully **STUDY** the criticism of your critics. (12:1-25)

2) Openly **SPEAK** to your critics. (13:1-12)

3) Ultimately **STRIVE** to please God. (13:13-19)

4) Honestly **SEARCH** your heart. (13:20-28)

Job asks God for two conditions so he can plead his case...

- Stop treating me like Your adversary with all this adversity: *Let's call a truce, so we can get together and work this out!*
- Don't overwhelm me with Your awesome sovereignty: *The thought of coming before You terrifies me! Show me some mercy when we get together to work this out!*

5) Patiently **SEEK** vindication from God. (14:1-22)

“Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!” Job 14:4

“I wish You would hide me in the grave and forget me there until Your anger has passed. But mark Your calendar to think of me again! Can the dead live again? If so, this would give me hope through all my years of struggle, and I would eagerly await the release of death (and resurrection!). You would call and I would answer, and You would yearn for me, Your handiwork. For then you would guard my steps, instead of watching for my sins. My sins would be sealed in a pouch, and you would cover my guilt.” Job 14:14-17 NLT

Evaluating the Advice of Soul Surgeons

- If the diagnosis is **inaccurate** and the medicine is **unbiblical**: *Get a second opinion from God and the spiritually mature.*
- If the diagnosis is **accurate** and the medicine is **biblical**: *Take God's medicine and get spiritually healthy.*

2. Make Sure the Soul Surgeon Is “Board Certified”, Not Practicing Outside of His or Her “Field of Knowledge”, and Has a Godly “Bedside Manner”!

How to Succeed as a Soul Surgeon

1) **ADMIT** you are a soul sufferer too and were once spiritually blind, lame, and dead!

2) **ASK** the right question: Not **“How to get out this and get more from God?”** but **“What does God want to do through this for His glory and my good?”**

3) **ADVISE** God's only cure for spiritual sickness: *The Persevering Gospel of Jesus Christ not the Prosperity Gospel of*

4) **ADMINISTER** the gospel of Jesus Christ with large doses of humility, sympathy, and empathy.

The Cure for Spiritual Malpractice

Take Large Doses of the Gospel on a Daily Basis and Trust the Great Physician to Heal Your Heart and Relieve Your Suffering at the Resurrection for His Glory and Your Joy! Romans 8:28-30