



Fixing Fractured Friendships

Lesson 27 • Job 42:7-9

Lessons Learned from Job about Suffering and Relationships

#1 Suffering in general causes **FRICTION** in relationships!

#2 Undeserved suffering can **FRACTURE** even the best of friendships!

What Does Job Teach Us about Fixing Fractured Friendships?

God's vindication of His suffering servant is the basis of **RECONCILIATION** with God and others.

Job 42:7-9

Reconciliation Requires...

1. The CONVICTION (INITIATION) of a Gracious God! (42:7)

What did the three friends say that was wrong about God? They preached a **PROSPERITY** theology.

MAIN THING: God gives (blessing) and takes away (cursing) based on our own works rather than on the basis of His sovereign grace through faith!

What did Job say that was right about God? He preached and practiced a **PERSEVERING** theology.

MAIN THING: God will vindicate me in the end! I will long for Him and live for Him more than what He gives or takes away from me. Even if He kills me, I will preserve in trusting Him.

So what? One of the hardest things to do is reconcile a relationship where both parties think they are **IN THE RIGHT!**

Wrong Ways to Try and Reconcile when Both Parties Think They Are Right

- 1) Go against your **CONSCIENCE** by giving in to false accusations and confessing to sin you have not really committed.
- 2) Go completely **SILENT** and never stand up for your integrity.
- 3) Get so consumed with proving your **RIGHT** that you lose focus on your relationship with God and others.

So What Should You Do When You Are in the Right but Others Think You Are in the Wrong?

- 1) Make sure we are really in the right according to God's standards and not our own. Job 1:1, 8, 22; 2:3; 10; 42:7-9
- 2) Maintain a clear conscience by **not** confessing sin you have **not** actually committed. 1 Timothy 1:5, 19; 2 Timothy 1:3; Acts 23:1; 24:16; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Peter 2:19; 3:16
- 3) Be gracious and patient when making your case and correcting others. 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- 4) Show you trust God by ultimately waiting on Him to vindicate your integrity. 1 Peter 4:19
- 5) Wait on God to convict your friends of their sin by refusing to force a confession from them. 2 Timothy 2:25-26

REMEMBER: Reconciliation requires **waiting on God's chosen time** to do a work in the heart of everyone involved that only He can do.

2. The SACRIFICE of a Sinless Substitute! (42:8)

The Sacrifice God Requires for Reconciliation Is...

- 1) A **PERSONAL** sacrifice for sin. *"Now therefore take for yourselves..."*
- 2) A **COSTLY** sacrifice for sin. *"seven bulls and seven rams..."*
- 3) A **TOTAL** sacrifice for sin. *"and offer up a burnt offering..."*
- 4) A **SUBSTITUTIONARY** sacrifice for sin. *"a burnt offering for yourselves..."*
- 5) A **HUMAN** sacrifice for sin. *Hebrews 2:14-15; 9:11-14*

REMEMBER: Reconciliation requires **trusting in God's chosen sacrifice** to make payment for our sins and the sins of others!

3. The **INTERCESSION** of a Forgiving Mediator! (42:8-9)

REMEMBER: Reconciliation requires **coming before God's chosen Mediator** to give and receive forgiveness from one another!

4. The **OBEDIENCE** of a Suffering Servant! (42:9)

REMEMBER: Reconciliation requires **God's obedient suffering servant** to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

5. The **REPENTANCE** of Guilty Sinners! (42:9-10)

The Repentance God Requires for Reconciliation Is...

- 1) A step of **FAITH** in the Lord. *"as the Lord had told them"*
- 2) A step of **OBEDIENCE** to the Lord. *"So [they] went and did as the Lord told them..."*
- 3) A step of **AGREEMENT** with the Lord. *"because you have not spoken Me what is right, as My servant Job has" (vv. 7, 9)*
- 4) A step toward **RECONCILIATION** from the Lord. *"the Lord accepted Job. The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends..."*

REMEMBER: Reconciliation requires **everyone to repent** by turning from their own sin to trust the Lord to forgive, reconcile, and restore!

Jesus Is Better than Job!

God's vindication of His suffering Servant, Jesus, is an **INVITATION** to reconciliation with God and others.

Now that God has vindicated Jesus as His sinless suffering Servant by His powerful resurrection from the dead and His glorious ascension to the right hand of the Father...

- God's **gracious conviction** begins with the preaching of God's vindication of JESUS as His sinless, suffering Servant in the power of the Spirit to all peoples. *Hebrews 1:1-4*
- God's **sinless Substitute** is the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who paid a debt He did not owe for those who owed a debt they could not pay. *Hebrews 9:11-14; 7:26*
- God's **forgiving Mediator** is the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who is now seated at the right hand of the Father forever making intercession for our sins. *Hebrews 8:6; 7:25*
- God's **suffering Servant** is the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who learned obedience through what He suffered for us in life and in death. *Hebrews 5:7-9*
- God's **reconciliation now comes through repentance and faith** in the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who was vindicated by God as His sinless, suffering Servant! *Hebrews 6:1-9; 12:14-29*



Therefore, friends really can be friends forever **IF** the Lord's the lord of them!