



## Caring Friends or Miserable Comforters?

Lesson 7 • Job 2:11-13

With Friends Like These...WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?

### 1. WHO Are Job's Friends?

*"Now when Job's three friends... Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite..." (2:11)*

#### ► Eliphaz the Experienced Moralist

**Age:** Probably the OLDEST of the three. Job 15:10

**Attitude:** Eliphaz is EXPERIENCED. Job 4:12-13; 5:27; 15:17

**Argues Like a Moralist:** *"I have SEEN it! No human being is righteous!"* Job 4:6-8, 12-13, 17-19; 5:27; 15:14-17

**Advice:** "REPENT" because you always reap what you sow!" Job 4:6-9; 5:8-18; 22:15, 21-30

#### ► Bildad the Brutal Traditionalist

**Age:** Perhaps the NEXT oldest.

**Attitude:** Bildad is BRUTAL. Job 8:1-4

**Argues Like a Traditionalist:** *"I was TOLD it! God is always just!"* Job 8:3, 8-10; 25:4-6

**Advice:** "REPENT" to be restored to your rightful place of prosperity!" Job 8:5-7, 20-22; 18:21

#### ► Zophar the Zealous Rationalist

**Age:** Probably the YOUNGEST of the three but still an elder to Job (and much older than Elihu).

**Attitude:** Zophar is ZEALOUS. Job 20:1-3

**Argues Like a Rationalist:** *"I can GRASP it! God knows more than anyone (–except him and his two friends!)"* Job 11:5-7

**Advice:** "REPENT" in order to be released from your adversity!" Job 11:13-15, 20; 20:4-7, 21, 26-29

## 2. WHERE Do Job's Friends Come From?

"...they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite ..." (2:11)

- ▶ Like Job all three friends are probably **WISE MEN** from **THE EAST** who believe in the one true God.  
*Job 1:3; Jeremiah 49:7; 1 Kings 4:30*

*Concerning Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Is there no longer any wisdom in Teman? Has good counsel been lost to the prudent? Has their wisdom decayed? Jeremiah 49:7*

*Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 1Kings 4:30*

## 3. WHY Do Job's Friends Visit Job?

"Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place...and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him" (2:11)

- ▶ They came **TOGETHER** as friends for their friend.
- ▶ They came to **CONSOLE** and **COMFORT** their suffering friend.
- ▶ They came to **HONOR** God and to **HELP** Job in all of his adversity.

## 4. WHAT Did Job's Friends Do to Help Job? (2:12-13)

- ▶ Actions of **GRIEF** that **recognized** Job's great suffering.
- ▶ Expressions of **SORROW** that **sympathized** with Job's profound sadness.
- ▶ Suppression of **WORDS** that **empathized** with Job's deep separation.

## What Do We Learn about Helping the Hurting?

- 1) Friends care enough to come **WITHOUT BEING ASKED**.
- 2) Friends respond with heartfelt **HOPE AND HELP**.
- 3) Friends **OPENLY EXPRESS** the depth of their feelings.
- 4) Friends do not let distasteful surroundings (*sights, sounds, and smells*) **KEEP THEM AWAY!**
- 5) Friends understand, so they **SAY VERY LITTLE**.

*"Sufferers attract fixers like road kill attracts vultures." ~Charles Swindoll*

## Caring Friends or Miserable Comforters...or Both?

The difference is found in a humble heart that seeks to recognize suffering by identifying with it, sympathize with sadness by weeping with it, and empathize with separation by sitting in silence until it is wise to speak.