Faith CAmidst the Darkness

JOB





3 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job said: 3 "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.' 4 Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. 5 Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

6 That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months. 7 Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it. 8 Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan. 9 Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning, 10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes."

Job 3:1-10 (ESV)

"I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul."

Job 10:1

"I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all."

Job 16:2

Miserable Comforts



Miserable Comforts

1) Get over it. Move on.



Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: 2 "If one ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? Yet who can keep from speaking? 3 Behold, you have instructed many, and you have strengthened the weak hands. 4 Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have made firm the feeble knees. 5 But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; it touches you, and you are dismayed. 6 Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?

Job 4:1-6

TRUTH #1

Grief stings deeply, but it's not your identity.

Miserable Comforts

1) Get over it. Move on.

2) Repent for your suffering. It's your fault.

7 "Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off? 8 As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. 9 By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed."

Job 4:7-9 (Eliphaz speaking)

"Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools."

Proverbs 26:9

20 "Behold, God will not reject a blameless man, nor take the hand of evildoers. 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting. 22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

Job 8:20-22 (Bildad speaking)

"4 If your children have sinned against him, he has delivered them into the hand of their transgression."

Job 8:4 (Bildad speaking)

"5 But oh, that God would speak and open his lips to you, 6 and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves."

Job 11:5-6 (Zophar speaking)

TRUTH #2

Sin and suffering do not necessarily go together. God is not a karma god.

"3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

John 9:3

30 If I wash myself with snow and cleanse my hands with lye, 31 yet you will plunge me into a pit, and my own clothes will abhor me. 32 For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. 33 There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both. 34 Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me. 35 Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.

Job 10:30-35

"Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face."

Job 13:15

"25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, 27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

Job 19:25-27

There's bound to come some trouble to your life.

That ain't nothin' to be afraid of.

That ain't no reason to be ashamed.

Reach out to Jesus and hold on tight. He's been there before, and he knows what it's like. And you'll find he is there.