

ALIENATED!

Job 4-8

**We should seek to be encouraging advisors
for the lonely and hurting.**

I. ELIPHAZ: THE ADVISOR - Chapters 4&5

A. GOOD ADVISE (4:1-6)

- Remember that God has not changed!

1. Job was not handling his trouble very well (5)
2. Be confident and hopeful in your fear of God and integrity (6)

B. BAD ADVISE (4:7-11)

- God's system of justice operates only on a retribution or "pay back" principle

1. Protection comes to those who are righteous (7)
2. Calamity comes to those who are sinners (8-11)
3. Job's life has contradicted the "you reap what you sow" concept.

C. MEDIOCRE ADVICE (4:12-21)

- No one can be truly right with God

1. The premise is stated with rhetorical questions in v. 17
2. God can and does find fault with all created beings (18-21)
3. The advice is true but irrelevant for Job who never claimed that his relationship with God was perfectly righteous.

D. UNHELPFUL ADVISE (5:1-7)

- God won't answer your prayers

1. Because your attitude stinks and you're acting like a fool (1-2)
2. I've seen what happens to fools (3-5)
3. These troubles are inevitable (6-7)

E. SELF-RIGHTEOUS ADVISE (5:8-16)

- If I were you I'd pray about this

1. A "holier-than thou" type of remedy
2. We know God can do wonderful things (9-15)
3. God can give hope to the helpless (16)

F. TRITE ADVISE (5:17-26)

- Hang in there. This will be over soon!

1. There is value in God's correction (17)
2. God is in the delivery business (18-23)
3. Getting back where you were is the most important thing (24-26)

G. "EXPERT" ADVISE (5:27)

- We know these things!

II. JOB: THE ALIENATED - Chapters 6&7

A. MALIGNED

- Note Eliphaz's conclusions

1. Job is a hypocrite (4:1-6)
2. Job must be guilty of something (4:7-11)
3. Job cannot be godly (4:12-21)
4. Job is a fool (5:1-7)
5. Job doesn't pray enough (5:8-16)
6. Job is impatient (5:17-26)
7. Job is uninformed (5:27)

B. MISUNDERSTOOD (6:1-7)

- Things were worse than others thought

1. His irritation is not irrational (1-3)
2. His terror is God-imposed (4)
3. Even suffering animals are not silent (5)
4. Eliphaz's advise is nauseating (6-7)

C. DESPERATE (6:8-13)

- Still hoping that all will end soon

1. Hoping for death (8-9)
2. Thankful he's still clinging to God (10)
3. Hopelessly weak (11-13)

D. DISAPPOINTED (6:14-30)

- His friends failed him

1. The expectation (14)
2. Their actions (15-23)
 - Offering no refreshment (15-20) and cowardly desertion (21-23)
3. Their ineffectiveness (24-30)

E. RESIGNED (7:1-6)

- Relief is not coming

1. To his allotment (1-3)
2. To his discomfort (4-5)
3. To his pathetic end (6)

F. FRUSTRATED (7:7-10)

- Life is not sweet

1. The brevity of life (7)
2. The finality of death (8-10)

G. DEFEATED (7:11-19)

- Complaining that God is too hard on him

1. He's guarded by God (11-12)
2. He's frightened by God (13-15)
3. He's bothered by God (16-19)

H. CONFUSED (7:20-21)

- *Questioning God's ways* (note the "why" questions again)

1. Why am I Your target? (20)
2. Why do you not pardon? (21)

III. US: SOME APPLICATIONS

A. ASSUMPTIONS ARE DANGEROUS (5:1-7)

1. We must be careful in assuming the extent of another's guilt
2. We may be wrong or misinformed

B. WE SHOULD AVOID "IF I WERE IN YOUR PLACE" ADVISE (5:8)

1. We are not in any other's place
2. We would do better to use Scripture and biblical examples to counsel others

C. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE CHASM BETWEEN THE SUFFERER AND THE SPECTATOR IS VAST (6:1-3)

1. Though we may think that we do ... we often do not understand the depths of their suffering
2. It is easy to have the wrong perspective

D. WE MUST OFFER COMPASSIONATE CARE (6:14-20)

1. Have we disappointed the desperate? (14)
2. Let us not be empty wadis! (15-20)

CONCLUSION:

Might we be helpful counselors to those in conflict.

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

- Romans 15:14

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