


Sermon Discussion Guide



Theophany: Job Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6, 10-17 Ray Cortese, December 12 & 13, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6, 10-17. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Discuss the following quote by C.S. Lewis: "God whispers in our pleasures, but he shouts in our pain."
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

ENDURING SUFFERING REQUIRES A RIGHT-SIZED GOD

- 3 What is the proper response to someone who says, "I can't see any good reason for God to allow this suffering"?
- 4 Ray asked, "Who is the most qualified to write the story of your life?" In what ways has God chosen to write your story differently than you might have?

ENDURING SUFFERING REQUIRES A WORTHY PURPOSE

- 5 *Suffering exposes the mercenary nature of our love for God.* What is the difference between loving God for His utility versus loving God for God?
- 6 *Suffering advances God's work.* How has God used suffering in your own life to bring about good?
- 7 *Suffering brings us to repentance.* Read and discuss Hebrews 12:7-11.

ENDURING SUFFERING REQUIRES A FUTURE HOPE

- 8 *Hope in a certain restoration.* How do unbelievers and believers experience suffering in this life differently? What did Ray mean when he said, "Heaven will work backwards, like waking up from a bad dream"?
- 9 *Hope in a certain Redeemer.* How is Jesus the ultimate Job?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?