

 *Job 23–4*

Cover to Cover: Job & Suffering

*Note:**The questions raised at the beginning of Job are not answered until the end; or those raised today will not become clearer until we’ve finished !*

Context: Last week we looked at Job 1–2. This past Lord’s Day we took a bird’s eye view of Job 1–31, primarily with an interest in suffering. We’ll continue to explore that in today’s reading. Job 23–4 is Job’s honest wrestling with God, asking the heartfelt question, “Where is God?” It comes amidst the cycles of conversation between Job and his friends about the nature of justice.

If you missed it, check out a short video resource on Job: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/job/>

*BIG Questions to bear in mind:*

* *Where is this passage in the wider story of salvation history?*
* *In what ways does this passage point to Jesus? (Lk 24:27)*

*Follow on Questions from this past Lord’s Day’s morning sermon:*

1. Recap Jobs predicament.
2. Have you ever suffered personal tragedy? What did this feel like? If you were trusting and following the Lord when this happened, how did this affect your journey? Share if you feel comfortable.
3. If you didn’t delve deeply into comforting others as we’ve been comforted by God (2 Cor 1:3–4) last time, take some time to share more about how God has comforted you. How can this then help you comfort others?
4. In Job 3 we have a classic example of a lament. A lament is *“an honest wrestling with God, where the very act of wrestling doesn’t show a lack of faith, but the highest form of faith. Lament begins and ends in trust.”* Do we lament enough as Christians? How can we lament well? Why is proper lament not a lack of faith?
5. Describe the view of justice that existed amongst Job’s friends. Where do we see evidence of this faulty way of thinking today?
6. Read and reflect upon Lk 13:1–5. On what basis can Jesus say these things? What greater act of justice do they remind us of? As those trusting in Jesus, how are we to view calamity?

**Read**: Job 23–4

*Passage Specific Questions:*

1. *Job, tired of his friend’s ramblings, desires to appeal direcly to God, and does in a lament.*
2. How does this speech of Job bear all the marks of a lament?
3. How is there great faith displayed in 23:1–7, yet even an air of presumptuousness? (How does this differ from what Job said in Job 9:3, 16, 19)?
4. What is Job aware of in 23:8–12? How is his obedience, his maintaining of his integrity under duress, a great mark of character? Is character one of the highest things we value?
5. What terrifies Job in 23:13–17? (How do we see Job’s faith in God’s sovereignty here?).
6. *In 24:1 Job is desiring hGod to keep frequent times of court, so justice can be dispensed rapidly. He laments the righteous must wait for the fullness of God’s glory to be revealed.*
7. In ch. 24 Job takes up a number of themes. Where can we find evidence of these?:
	1. His wish that God’s justice would be more apparent.
	2. That the wicked are not always judged immediately as his friends believe (he highlights how the obviousness of their sins underscores this point).

Close by reading the promise of Ps 34:19–22.