

I Am Broken!

"Healing" series- Part 01

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: Describe a time when you attempted to fix or repair something and the end results were not what you hoped it would be.

Let's get on the same page -

In our present time, there are truths or historical facts that are considered true among a large majority of people. At the same time there are a few who continue to refute or deny what is accepted as being factual by the many. Below are a few examples, so take a few minutes and imagine why people would choose to believe these things are false:

- Man landed on the moon in 1969.
- The Jewish Holocaust happened during WW2.
- The earth is a globe.

The reasoning that causes some to deny proven truths may include racism, embarrassment, a strong belief in conspiracy theories, unbelief, or simply a lack of knowledge. In our "Healing" series, we discussed that one of the first steps that must be taken in the healing process is to accept the truth that people (including ourselves) are spiritually broken. At times this is a hard truth and one in which we expend a lot of energy to deny. In our study today, we are going to look at a man that God Himself spoke highly of, people who knew him found him blameless, yet he spent some time denying his own brokenness. His name is Job.

Book: Job 33:1-28 Subtitle: Elihu Rebukes Job

Job 33:1-7: "Listen to my words, Job; pay attention to what I have to say. Now that I have begun to speak, let me continue. I speak with all sincerity; I speak the truth. For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Answer me, if you can; make your case and take your stand. Look, you and I both belong to God. I, too, was formed from clay. So you don't need to be afraid of me. I won't come down hard on you."

Job: 33:8-11: "You have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard your very words. You said, 'I am pure; I am without sin; I am innocent; I have no guilt. God is picking a quarrel with me, and He considers me His enemy. He puts my feet in the stocks and watches my every move.'

Job 33:12-22: "But you are wrong, and I will show you why. For God is greater than any human being. So why are you bringing a charge against Him? Why say He does not respond to people's complaints? For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it. He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in their beds. He whispers in their ears and terrifies them with warnings. He makes them turn from doing wrong; He keeps them from pride. He protects them from the grave, from crossing over the river of death. "Or God disciplines people with pain on their sickbeds, with ceaseless aching in their bones. They lose their appetite for even the most delicious food. Their flesh wastes away, and their bones stick out. They are at death's door; the angels of death wait for them."

Job 33:23-28 "But if an angel from heaven appears—a special messenger to intercede for a person and declare that he is upright— he will be gracious and say, 'Rescue him from the grave, for I have found a ransom for his life.' Then his body will become as healthy as a child's, firm and youthful again. When he prays to God, he will be accepted. And God will receive him with joy and restore him to good standing. He will declare to his friends, 'I sinned and twisted the truth, but it was not worth it. God rescued me from the grave, and now my life is filled with light.' "Yes, God does these things again and again for people. He rescues them from the grave so they may enjoy the light of life."

Let's get into the Word:

BACKGROUND MATERIAL: Job has suffered the loss of property, family members, and eventually his own health. Three of his older friends (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) have come to advise him and declare that Job has committed some sin in his past and must repent to find healing. One more friend, Elihu, after listening to the other men, begins to speak into Job's life.

Bible scholar, J. Sidlow Baxter, provides a beautiful summary of Elihu's speech:
He sees a different and superior purpose in suffering from that which Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar have seen. It is a much higher and more spiritual purpose. The other three speakers have all been bound hand and foot by the theory that suffering is the punishment of past sinning. Elihu goes beyond that, to a truer and wider meaning. Suffering is not exclusively punitive; it is also corrective. It is not only penal; it is moral. It does not only come to reprove man; it comes to restore man. It does not always come just to chastise; it often comes to chasten. It is not only the judge's rod; it is the shepherd's goad.

As Elihu begins to speak, why does he tell Job: "Look, you and I both belong to God. I, too, was formed from clay"?

How important is it for us to express this sentiment to others when we speak into their lives? What are different ways that we can do this?

What do you make of Job's remarks to his 3 friends as they accused him of past sin. Job states his feelings over and over again in various ways: "*I am innocent! God has it in for me! God has wronged me and He refuses to listen to me*".

Why did Job argue so strongly that he was not guilty of sin?

Elihu begins to share with Job why he is wrong about God and what God does in a person's life during times of brokenness and suffering. What observations can you make about God and his response according to verses 12-22

In what ways does God use to speak to us...to correct us...to guide us...to assure us?

The book of Job is considered the oldest book in the Bible. In this very old record, how might the gospel be represented in verses 23-28

Many feel that the answer to the question, "Why does God allow the righteous to suffer?" is not sufficiently answered in Job's story. Based on Job 33, what great truths do you glean about our sinfulness, denial, and God's response to our spiritual problem?

Let's get real (with self!)

Have you felt that at times, you have been in denial about your brokenness? Why are the reasons for your unwillingness to accept this truth and how it may be impacting your life?