

**THE BOOK OF JOB**  
**Processing Pain**  
**Text: Job 6:1-30**

**Key Word:** Pain

**Key Thought:** How to Help those that are Processing Pain

Conversations surrounding pain seem to take place more often now that I am in my golden years. One of my Bible college peers told me years ago that I should write a book on how to deal with pain. I'm glad that the bible includes the Book of Job because there is so much to glean from Job's experience and how he processed all of his overwhelming journey.

The truth contained in this book has survived 3500 years of critical thinking. Nothing contains such meaningful words and perhaps its words have even more impact in this time of world history.

Pain has been simply described as . . .

“a strongly unpleasant bodily sensation such as is caused by illness or injury”

Oxford University Press

The word “**anguish**” is also a way of describing the intensity that one senses with it. Just ask anyone who has faced appendicitis; a severe vehicle accident; passing a kidney stone or someone surviving 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns and the various forms of cancer and treatment. Many of the words contained in this book involved not just physical but also emotional pain. The ongoing battles within our brain are the kind that many strong people have felt overwhelmed by even though they have a healthy body. That is why Job was so remarkable for his day and age.

Approximately 12 people die in Canada by suicide each day. Which is about 4,500 deaths by suicide per year. Suicide rates are approximately three times higher among men compared to women. It is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults (15-34 years). **So understanding how to appropriately process pain - whether physical or emotional - is vital to understand.**

**Lets Consider Some Points of Interest with Job's Reply to Eliphaz**

**I. HIS REASONING (Job 6:2-7)**

**II. HIS REQUEST (Job 6:8-10)**

**III. HIS REFRESHING (Job 6:11-13)**

**IV. HIS RESOLUTION (Job 6:14-30)**

## I. HIS REASONING (Job 6:2-7)

After two chapters of verbal questioning, many with implications that Job **brought on** the problems that he was facing, Job takes time to respond without lightening his words of rebuttal either. He began by sharing his reasoning.

**A. Like the Sand of the Seas** - I've never heard of anyone trying to number the sand on the shores of the seas (or the stars of the sky like Abraham was asked to do - Genesis 15:5). Job extends the way he felt by comparing it to the weight of the innumerable grains of sand. That's what I would describe as "**heavy weight**" or better still "**unbearable weight.**" The New Testament offers us a way to handle this type of situation is . . .

*"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.*

*2. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

*3. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.*

*4. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else,"*

*Galatians 6:1-4*

**B. Like Arrows that Cut Deep** - Ancient weapons of war were quite crude at this time of history. What began as arrow tips made of jagged stones, flintstone and bones, eventually changed to rugged metals that often did more damage taking them out as to when they pierced someone's skin. Job described his pain as similar to poison that enters his spirit. **The words of the Almighty can be used to bring great damage when used as a weapon against others especially when used in quick succession.** This is how Job describes how he was feeling.

**C. Like Tasteless Food or Slimy Juice** - Neither tasteless food nor slimy juice are appealing when someone is experiencing bitter times in their life. This is just like heaping insults upon injury. It is just Not Appropriate for someone to utter these kinds of words to their friend and expect them to swallow them without making a face.

## II. HIS REQUEST (Job 6:8-10)

**A. He Would Rather Be Crushed to Death** - Anyone who has witnessed someone being crushed to death knows those images are appalling. You would immediately want to erase those images forever and as soon as possible. **Yet these were Job's feelings that had now become entrenched in his heart and troubled his mind and emotions.**

**B. He Would Rather Have His Life Cut off** - If that isn't enough what about being alive while your hand is amputated? The War Amps of Canada advocate on behalf of amputees to increase healthcare funding and protect against discrimination based on disability. Even in our sophisticated day and age we have people discriminated against because of the loss of a limb. How much more when someone is cut down well short of the average age span?

My 4-year-old brother Kevin lost his life at the age of four. It was devastating to our family and friends and especially to mom. Most of us today (if not all of us) have faced the death of a loved one. It will never be easy. It should never be easy because it hurts to the same level as we loved that person. It goes much beyond the amputation of a hand but Job requested it.

**C. He Would Then Be Consoled by Words Not Spoken** - Have you ever been thankful for words you NEVER HAVE SAID? Job described this as a level of joy even though he had been experiencing an unrelenting level of pain. He never cursed God for the troubles he was facing. He held his tongue even though the roof of his mouth was parched and dry. He would have preferred to bite his tongue then leave scars on others. God grants us that level of containment through filling us with **the fruit of the spirit of loooooongsuffering (forbearance - KJV) and self-control (Galatians 6:22-23)**

## III. HIS REFRESHING (Job 6:11-13)

There is no one I've ever met that doesn't need times of refreshing.

**A. Hope Brings Strength** - WHO and WHAT do we place our Hope in? If it is in anyone else but God and His will for our lives then we are doomed to fail. If we expect strength for our body, we must have hope in our soul (mind - emotions - will). **Those who seek for temporary strength to overcome problems will never be established in the hope of God.** Their life will be like a roller coaster. Our world is heading to a massive wake up call. Everything that can be shaken WILL be shaken and only those things that are founded upon God and His Word will remain. The shifting sands of life are not a wise place to build the foundation for our lives upon.

**B. Patience increases our prospects** - I laughed years ago at the phrase "God GIVE me patience AND give it to me NOW" That's one of the clear signs of "easy believism." It narrows our prospects for victory OVER our struggles. It doesn't remove us FROM our struggles. The children of Israel would have spent a great deal less of time in the wilderness if they had been patient and obedient to God even though they couldn't see their destiny on the horizon.

#### IV. HIS RESOLUTION (Job 6:14-30)

He wasn't going to be satisfied with a mirage forming before his eyes as the tormenting pain brunt into his body. He didn't want another day filled with disappointments. His level of distress had reached its peak. He wasn't looking for a hand out or even a hand out - he was looking for deliverance from the hand of the enemy (he knew the difference of holding God's hand).

**A. Be Straightforward with Your Teaching Toward Others** - A person like Job who is willing to learn is willing to receive straightforward (not condemning) words from their friends and those they trust. He was willing to be taught and even be quiet UNDER those conditions. Words conditioned by a broken heart are much more effective than swift words from an unstable mind (Job 6:24-25). The ungodly have always tried to suppress the truth because they know THEIR unrighteousness will eventually be exposed. Our minds are marred by it every day.

“The Greeks and the Romans justified their own impurity by that of their gods.”

Rev. Thomas Robinson, D.D.  
“The Preacher's Complete Homiletic  
Commentary on the Book of Job”  
p. 26

Have you ever wondered why it is that it doesn't take longer than a generation to fall away from God? A straight forward demand to follow **unbiblical lifestyles** will never rise a nation that is falling into the muck of sin. Jonathan Cahn exposed it in his 2022 book titled “**The return of the gods.**” It has created an avalanche of ungodliness that mocks God's Holy Word.

#### **B. Be Considerate with Your Words Toward Others** -

*“Do you mean to correct what I say, and treat my  
desperate words as wind?  
27. Your would even cast lots for the fatherless and  
batter away your friend”*

*Job 6:26,27*

It's impossible to love God with all our heart and NOT love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Do you know how we can test how much we love ourselves? It's measured by how honest we are to ourselves in comparison to others. Our measurement of sin cannot change when we look at ourselves. Mom used to say “**What's good for the goose is good for the gander.**” One thing I like about geese is that they will switch positions when the leading goose is showing signs of becoming weary. If there is that much common sense in their minds how much should be apparent in those who think they are wise and have the upper grip at the moment without facing the identical headwind?

## IV. HIS RESOLUTION (Job 6:14-30) (Contd.)

### C. Be Understanding How Your Words Affect Others

Not many years ago the governor of Illinois mentioned that what his party needed to do was kick his opponents when they were down. I thought *“how immature that man is. He doesn't deserve the honourable position he has been intrusted with.”* Force is NOT gained by using wrong words. **How forcible are right words mellowed by compassion and extinct of anger.**

The KJV tells us that - The word of truth is to be rightly divided. Paul uses these words as well as those in the next verse to distinguish between those who work for God and those who are false teachers. There is a big difference.

*“Keep reminding God's people of these things.  
**Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.**  
15. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed **and who correctly handles the word of truth.**”*

*II Timothy 2:14,15*

Paul is warning the early church to stay away from *quarrelling* with the words we choose. The proper way to handle God's Word is to LIVE IT WITHOUT SHAME NOT SPEAK IT IN VAIN.

Job finishes by asking Eliphaz to RELENT and RECONSIDER his attitude, actions and words because Job's INTEGRITY WAS AT STAKE.

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Date: April 2/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Breakthrough - G

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