

SILENT SUFFERERS Part II

Text: Job 6:1-29

Key Word: Suffering

Key Thought: Abuse Leaves Victims and Abusers in a State of Silently Suffering

Few would argue with me that there are plenty of people in our world who have been victims of abuse. The victims do not stop simply with the recipients. There are also (in some cases) the abusers who stand as victims themselves. We can sit back and try to believe that it doesn't affect us because it hasn't happened to us or someone we know. Or we can recognize that God has placed us here to bring about **healing, health and hope in a hurting world** no matter who the recipient may be.

But do we always bring healing, health and hope when we are in the process of trying to help someone in need? I wonder if we are sometimes like Job's "*comforters?*" Could our feeble attempts bring further harm to those who are suffering?

My focus today is not to address the fact that we are sometimes hurt by well-meaning people. Instead, it is to offer constructive ideas to overcome the hurdle of getting on in life after being abused in whatever form it has happened.

How Can We Overcome Years of Abuse and Silent Suffering?

I. BRING AN END TO IMPETUOUS SPEECH (Job 6:1-3)

II. BRING AN END TO INSECURE REFRESHMENTS (Job 6:15-20)

III. BRING AN END TO RELENTLESS INJUSTICE (Job 6:29)

I. BRING AN END TO IMPETUOUS SPEECH (Job 6:1-3)

Another way of saying impetuous is using words like "**reckless, impulsive, rash or hasty.**" We've all come across these kinds of people who offer their "*help*" without us even asking for it. I have discovered that these kinds of words rarely offer any help in recovery. Actions are hard enough to deal with, we don't need the double whammy of some misguided "*counselor*" to offer their help.

But not all impetuous speech comes from others. We can also talk to ourselves with these kinds of words. I know what your thinking, I'll never admit that I talk to myself. Yet everyone does it. The problem arises when we answer ourselves. Job spoke to himself.

"no wonder my words have been impetuous."

Job 6:3b

I. BRING AN END TO IMPETUOUS SPEECH (Job 6:1-3) (Contd.)

Are you hasty, reckless, rash or impulsive with the words you use in referring to yourself?

How about some of these famous ones:

1. How could I be so stupid?
2. If I had a brain in my head!
3. Why did my mother ever give birth to me?
4. I wish I'd never been born
5. I'll never become anything in life
6. There I go again - opening my big fat mouth
7. I can't believe I did such an idiotic thing
8. I betcha they're glad they're not me
9. The day I die this world will be smiling
10. The doctor slapped my mother the day I was born

It is so easy to work yourself into a rut with your speech patterns. The problem arises that we begin to believe what we are saying about ourselves. Once we believe it, we normally will play the part to perfection. Hollywood actors/resses will never be able to compete with our performance.

This is not an easy pattern to break away from. It will take a consistent surrender to God and His will for our lives in order to break away from damaging patterns.

*“If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check ...
8. no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

James 3:2,8

William Norris, the American journalist who specialized in simple rhythms that packed a wallop once wrote:

*“If your lips would keep from slips,
Five things observe with care:
To whom you speak; of whom you speak;
And how, and when, and where.”*

[William Norris](#)

I. BRING AN END TO IMPETUOUS SPEECH (Job 6:1-3) (Contd.)

*** A man working in the produce department was asked by a lady if she could buy half a head of lettuce. He replied, *“Half a head? Are you serious? God grows these in whole heads and that’s how we sell them!”*

“You mean,” she persisted, *“that after all the years I’ve shopped here, you won’t sell me half-a-head of lettuce?”*

“Look,” he said, *“If you like I’ll ask the manager.”* She indicated that would be appreciated, so the young man marched to the front of the store. *“You won’t believe this, but there’s a lame-braided idiot of a lady back there who wants to know if she can buy half-a-head of lettuce.”*

He noticed the manager gesturing, and turned around to see the lady standing behind him, obviously having followed him to the front of the store. *“And this nice lady was wondering if she could buy the other half”* he concluded.

Later in the day the manager cornered the young man and said, *“That was the finest example of thinking on your feet I’ve ever seen! Where did you learn that?”*

I grew up in Grand Rapids, and if you know anything about Grand Rapids, you know that it’s known for its great hockey teams and its ugly women.”

The manager’s face flushed, and he interrupted, *“My wife is from Grand Rapids!”*

The young worker impetuously asked, *“And which hockey team did she play for?”* ***

Source Unknown

II. BRING AN END TO INSECURE REFRESHMENTS (Job 6:15-21)

There are two things that caught my attention when I meditated on the concluding portion of this text. Both relate to streams which were very important because there were no water taps in Job’s day and age. He needed something that was reliable.

A. Intermittent Streams (Job 6:15-17)

“But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow

*16. when darkened by thawing ice and swollen with melting snow,
17. but that cease to flow in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their channels.”*

Job 6:15-17

II. BRING AN END TO INSECURE REFRESHMENTS (Job 6:15-20) (Contd.)

A. Intermittent Streams (Job 6:15-17) (Contd.)

It is believed that Job lived on the eastern part of Lebanon. This area had several unique problems associated with their streams of water. The first problem takes place during the heated summer months. There are infrequent rain storms that take place. During these outbursts of water, the wadi fill up quickly as the water collects in their lower channels. Yet the water just as quickly disburse into the porous rocks and dry ground.

The prophet Jeremiah used a similar expression to describe God when he needed Him.

“Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.”

Jeremiah 15:18

God called the words of Jeremiah worthless; requiring him to repent (Jeremiah 15:19).

Job goes on to speak of his amazement of even the snow and ice that quickly disappear under the heat of the sun. It’s one thing for water to disappear but it is another to see even ice and snow remarkably leave without a trace.

B. Disappointing Streams (Job 6:18-20)

There is a second type of insecure refreshment that Job refers to. It is one thing to have **intermittent streams** while it is another to find **disappointing streams**. The first kind seems to disappear right before your eyes while the second is only something that exists in our hopeful imagination.

Job uses the illustration of a caravan that will even go out of its way because it is so sure there is a refreshing stream in their new route.

*“Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go up into the wasteland and perish.
19. The caravans of Tema look for water, the traveling merchants of Sheba look in hope.
20. They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrive there, only to be disappointed.”*

Job 6:18-20

II. BRING AN END TO INSECURE REFRESHMENTS (Job 6:15-20) (Contd.)

B. Disappointing Streams (Job 6:18-20) (Contd.)

While **intermittent streams** can offer **temporary refreshment**, **disappointing streams** offer **no refreshment at all**. Those traveling in caravans that make this unfortunate journey come to death. They cannot find the strength to get back on the main highway and reach a place that offers true refreshment.

We must realize that WHAT we choose to refresh us can bring us to a place of more than just disappointment but also to death. Anyone who has lived through a time of abuse and silent suffering must carefully choose WHERE they will get their help. They are vulnerable to be misused again and again. Abusers carefully determine whom they can abuse. There are apparent weaknesses when someone is on the road to recovery that make these people even more susceptible to further pain and punishment. We all need to be careful whom we choose for help. Go to those who will commit to guiding you into truth even though the process may at times bring temporary pain.

III. BRING AN END TO RELENTLESS INJUSTICE (Job 6:29)

A. In the Natural Realm (Job 6:29)

You would think that justice would rise to the occasion to make things right. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In a society where sin is rampant, we cannot foolishly believe that the justice system or religion system has remained untainted.

“Relent, do not be unjust; reconsider, for my integrity is at stake.”

Job 6:29

We sometimes need to fight relentlessly against a persistent injustice system because our integrity is at stake. If you understand that God has made you worth something, then you need to stand up for what is right.

“To do injustice is more disgraceful than to suffer it.”

Plato

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

Elie Wiesel

III. BRING AN END TO RELENTLESS INJUSTICE (Job 6:29)

B. In the Supernatural Realm

“For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.”

1 Peter 2:19

There are times when we have to allow God to take over and accomplish what we can never do on our own. The supernatural realm of God is a place that we often turn to during times of injustice yet we normally don't understand how God works. We expect Him to work in a moment and often He seems to take longer than we expect to respond.

We often can't see the bigger picture. The greatest example of anyone surrendering to the Father's will was in the life of Jesus Christ His Son. Jesus' disciples couldn't see the benefit of Him suffering (Matthew 16:21-28). But our Saviour was about to bring a death blow to the forces of evil as He surrendered to the punishment of the cruel cross.

We may ask why injustice is still raging in our world if He brought an end to it. The answer is that the death sentence of Satan and his angels **was determined** the day Jesus surrendered His life at Calvary. The final consummation is close at hand. The supernatural realm will win over the natural realm. The God of the heavens and earth has promised an end to tears, suffering and pain.

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5. He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

Revelation 21:4,5

Put your faith in the words of God and you will bring an end to relentless injustice. Your destiny will ensure that you will suffer no more. **Our destination is pain free; drug free; pollution free; death free and most of all free of injustice.**

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Suffering

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A. In the Natural Realm (Job 6:29)

B. In the Supernatural Realm - *I Peter 2:19; Matthew 16:21-28; Revelation 21:4,5*