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The Flawed, Foolish, and Sometimes Faithful Counsel of Friends

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Text: Job 4-27

Most of us know how to quickly spot the unwise counsel of the world.

Most Christians can spot the world's bad advice....

- Do what makes you happy
- If you're not in love in your marriage, walk away
- Find your truth
- Don't trust anyone
- All people are basically good
- No one should tell you how to live your life
- Many more...

What about counsel that comes to us from friends in our time need that doesn't look at first to be flawed but on closer examination don't pass the test of godly wisdom?

Job is about to enter the ring, and it is 3 on 1!

Job forces a third category of suffering in our theology...

1. Consequence of sin
2. To draw us to faith, grow us
3. But what about Job?

"It appears that we need a third category of suffering. Sometimes God allows pain and loss that have nothing to do with sin in our lives and are not meant to teach us anything. Rather, our loss and bewilderment become an avenue by which God gives himself to us more than he ever could have before, when we were at ease" –Eric Ortlund

To be fair, Job's three friends came to him in his greatest time of need.

The "advice" comes in rounds...

1. Round One

1. Mr. "I know the problem" (4-5)
 - a. Eliphaz has all the answers!
 - b. Argument of Retribution
 - c. "Righteous people do not suffer, only sinners do. So, if someone is suffering, it must be a result of their wickedness."
 - d. John 9:2-3 (ESV)
2. Mr. "They know the problem" (8)
 - a. Bildad likes to look at the wisdom of generations past
 - b. Bildad's problem is application and timing
3. Mr. "You know the problem" (11)
 - a. To Zophar, this is all rather obvious

2. Round Two: Job, you have to be stupid!

1. Mr. "I know the problem" (15)
 - a. Some of their insight is not wrong, but their application is.
 - b. Job 15:17-35 does accurately describe the plight of the wicked.
 - c. Romans 1:29-31
 - d. 2 Timothy 3:2-5
2. Mr. "They know the problem" (18)
 - a. Does the earth revolve around you?
 - b. Again, lots of right information. Wrong application.
3. Mr. "You know the problem" (20)

3. Round 3: Job, you have the solution!

1. Mr. "I know the problem" (22)
 - a. Job wants to plead his case before God
 - b. In Job 22:5-11 Eliphaz decides to list all of Job's supposed sins
2. Mr. "They know the problem" (25)
 - a. Job 16:2
 - b. Hurting in the Lord is not simple
 - c. Waiting on the Lord is not passive
 - d. Trusting in the Lord is not surrendering
 - e. Walking with the Lord is essential
 - f. If you find yourself sitting with someone suffering...
 - i. Pray first
 - ii. Serve second
 - iii. Speak third
 - g. And when you speak...

- i. Speak only absolute truth from God's word
 - ii. Speak often of Christ and His power, love, and control
 - iii. Speak of obedience that is only driven by the gospel and empowered by The Spirit
 - iv. Isaiah 9:6
 - v. John 15:15
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Access the NEW Bible Reading Plan for Job here:

[English Bible Reading Plan](#)

[Spanish Bible Reading Plan](#)