



## *Correspondent's Corner*

### **Job said, "Miserable Comforters Are Ye All"**

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The book of Job is the account of an Old Testament believer who went through a very difficult sequence of events. Job was tested like very few have ever experienced in this

life. There came to Job some of his acquaintances to speak to him in his suffering. After seven days of silence before him they began to speak one by one. Their speaking was of no help to Job so Job told them in Job 16:2 "I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all". These men who spoke to Job in his suffering were blaming him for his trouble. In other words they said "it's your fault, Job, you're to blame for your own trouble". They had no real compassion to offer to Job. They truly were miserable comforters. One thing that is obvious about these men was they had never gone through what Job was going through. They couldn't relate to him in his suffering.

There are two words in the English language that are similar but different. The words are sympathy and empathy. Sympathy is a feeling of compassion towards one in suffering whereas empathy is entering into the suffering of another with a desire to help. That's a simplistic definition but it conveys the thought of one who is empathetic is much more able to comfort one in suffering.

The last two verses of Hebrews chapter four tell us of the Lord Jesus who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. The reason for this ability to relate to our difficulties is that he has been here on this Earth and experienced life's testing. He is therefore able to relate to our difficulties and be truly empathetic towards us. As the saying goes today he has been here and done that already. The Hebrews writer is emphatic that Jesus never sinned in all his time down here. Verse 15 of chapter four says he was tested in all points like as we are, yet without sin.

The Hebrew believers are then exhorted in verse 16 to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Jesus is able to help because he has gone through the things of life's sorrows and trials. He certainly is not a miserable comforter like those who were with Job. He is deeply sympathetic and one of greatest empathy.

This article up till now has been directed to believers in their struggles. I want to say something to those who have not trusted the Saviour yet. This tremendous compassion and love for believers is not the limit of the love of God. In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24 we read concerning the

suffering of the Lord Jesus on the cross “Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree.” The Lord Jesus felt the full load of God’s punishment for our sins while he was on the cross. God’s everlasting love for us is seen at the cross in the giving of his son for us. In Galatians 2:20 Paul wrote of “The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me”. Paul who was a persecutor of the early Christians had a dramatic conversion to Christ and was transformed into a tremendous preacher of the Gospel he once hated. Before Paul’s conversion he was present at the martyrdom of the first recorded martyr and was encouraging the killing of Stephen. It is no secret that the love of God goes out to whosoever will and there is great forgiveness still to be found through the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this article by using the contact form on the “Contact Us” page. I will respond, with no obligation on your part.