

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



GOD & SUFFERING

JEREMY BELL, TEACHING PASTOR

JOB 1:13-21 (NIV)

13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, 15 and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" 16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" 17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" 18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" 20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

ISAIAH 53:5 (NLT)

He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

NOTES

(THE STUFF THAT STICKS OUT TO ME)

**WE ARE CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME,
AND EVERYONE IS WANTED...INCLUDING YOU.**

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GOING DEEPER

(SOME IDEAS TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE)

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

Read Job 1. Job was a good man, but faced unbelievable tragedy. What parts of this chapter do you relate to? What are some of the hardest things you've experienced? It's easy to praise and follow God in the good times. How can you remember to remain faithful in the bad times as well?

Job has friends visit him and they each try to provide answers for Job's pain. We often start with questions during tragedy, but do answers and explanations help or hurt? Explain.

Read Isaiah 53:3. This is describing Jesus. How is the cross a reminder that God is acquainted with our grief? Physical pain? Torture? Abandonment from closest friends? Betrayal?

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) - All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.

TAKE A STEP:

Take a few minutes this week and encourage someone you know who has been hurting. Surprise them with a reason to smile.

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ALL IN, TOGETHER

GENERAL OFFERING

2023 Weekly Budget: \$10,187
Given April 16th: \$5,773
Difference: (\$4,414)

2023 Annual Budget: \$529,724
2023 Budget YTD: \$152,805
2023 Given YTD: \$134,013
Difference: (\$18,792)

BUILD YOUR CHURCH FUND

BYC April 16th: \$1,489
BYC YTD: \$39,039
BYC Total Given: \$361,532

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