



## Four Responses to Suffering

### *The Story of Job*

#### **The Big Idea:**

What we allow to shape our perspective (theology, people, circumstances) will impact our view of God when suffering happens.

#### **Context and Background**

The Retribution Principle:

*“A common belief that the righteous will prosper and the wicked will suffer.”*

#### **Job’s Loss and Response**

*“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head.”* v20

Lament: [*def: to express one's deep grief about*]

*“Watch what you reach for when you are in pain.”* Aaron Stern

#### **Job’s Wife’s Response**

Job 2:9-10

#### **Job’s Friends’ Response**

Job 2:13

Job 3:1-5, 11-13, 24-26

Job 4 to Job 37

1. You can have good theology, but bad timing.
2. You can have good theology, but a bad spirit.
3. You can have good theology, but bad application of it.

### **JOB'S FRIENDS BAD THEOLOGY**

1. All suffering is the result of someone's sin (chapter 4)
2. If you just repent you won't suffer (Ch 7:5-6)
3. You get what you deserve
4. The innocent don't suffer

God's grace is conditioned on his grace, not our merit.

### **God's Response**

Job 38: 1-13

1. God is wholly other.
2. God is the sustainer of the world.
3. Trust God's wisdom and creative ways; even when you can't figure it out.

### **Job's Response to God**

*Job 42:1-6*