

Condensed Milk

"...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...." 1 Peter 2:2

Job: The Word on Suffering -- Part 18 (Based on Job 4 - 7)

When Satan wanted to hurt Job some, he attacked him through his possessions. When he wanted to hurt Job more he attacked him through his body. But when Satan wanted to hurt him most he attacked him through his most spiritual friends. Most people will tell you that their greatest pains and sorrows have come through the betrayal of someone close to them. It happens in families and it happens in churches all the time.

With the loss of his possessions, especially his children, Job was almost overwhelmed emotionally. When his body was attacked he was almost broken psychologically. But it was his friends who almost broke him spiritually. We need to remember that if we claim to be Christians we claim, by our association with God, that our words and our very attitudes represent God.

Listen to Eliphaz, for example (4:7-9):

Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.

Job could see the contempt and rejection in their faces. He could hear it in their voices and words. But perceptively and with uncommon strength he saw through it and rebuked them (13:7).

Will you speak wickedly on God's behalf? Will you speak deceitfully for him?

When people act as Job's friends did we need to remind ourselves that this does not come from God; it comes from another place.

