

## 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 17** **(Based on Job 2:11)**

Job's friends were the best friends he could have had when he was suffering – for about seven days. In light of their later failure as friends we forget that they actually began as good models of what a true friend can do for you. We read in 2:11,

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

A woman spoke to me once about a time when her daughter had become dangerously suicidal and had been for some time. She longed for someone to talk to. She was ready to unload her burden if someone would just open that door for her. But no one, not even those who knew the situation best, gave her that opportunity.

There are people near us right now who are burdened by life's cares. You can see it on their faces if you look. You can know it must be true if you think of their circumstances. They don't expect us to solve their problems; they just want someone who will listen with sympathy. But we will have to do as Job's friends did to be of help.

First, they made a conscious decision that Job needed sympathy and comfort from them. They became aware that Job was suffering and they agreed that they had to do something for him. Secondly, they made an effort to be available. They left their own concerns behind and travelled to be with him. Thirdly, they sacrificed their own plans, the jobs they needed to do and gave him their time.

Is there anyone near you who needs that kind of friend?

