

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Shattered
Title: The Way of Grace
Text: Job 42:1-9
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: November 24, 2019



WARM-UP

- Share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend's worship service.
- Describe a situation in which someone tried to help you with something, but their "help" only made things worse.

DISCUSSION

Read Job 2:11-13

- When you see people going through an experience of deep grief and pain that you can't personally relate to, how do you typically respond?
- Are you comfortable "journeying" alongside people even if you have nothing tangible to offer but your presence?
- Do you tend to want to offer solutions or quick fixes?
- Do you find yourself withdrawing for fear that you'll do the wrong thing or that you don't know how to relate—you feel unqualified to be helpful?
- Do you find that if that person's situation lasts for a duration of time it's hard to stick with them for the long haul?

Read Job 38:1-18, which is part of God's speech to, or questioning of, Job. Then, take a minute to make a quick scan of chapters 38-41 to note how this portion you read is representative of the entirety of what God says to Job. Then read Job's two attempts at responding to God (Job 40:3-5, 42:1-6).

- What do you see as being the difference between the two responses?
- Based on God's reaction, it seems Job's second response was in line with the posture God wanted Job to take towards Him, whereas his first wasn't (since after the first response, God simply carries on with the same line of questioning as though Job hadn't even said anything). How can we live life with the kind of posture towards God that reflects the heart of Job's second response rather than the first?

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DISCUSSION

Read Job 42:7-9 in which Job, who is the one living a shattered life and who has been treated poorly by his "friends," is put in the position of having to decide whether or not these friends will face punishment from God or be released from the consequences of their negative actions towards Job.

- How do you think you would have responded if you were in Job's shoes and your friends, who had badly mistreated you, came to you to pray so that they wouldn't receive punishment for what they had done wrong to you?
- How do you normally respond towards people who hurt you?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to be gracious to them?
- What is it that makes it often difficult for us to treat others better than they treat us?
- Is treating others better than they treat us easier to do when life is going well, or when life is going poorly? Why?

Now that our "Shattered" series has concluded, share one thought/idea/action that you are walking away from this series with.