

AH!!! BEING HONEST TO GOD

July 21, 2019 Job 3 by Bob Branch

Thinking About Suffering with Faith and Truth, part 4

BIG IDEA: God invites us to be honest with him (and others) with our pain and emotions, and find equilibrium, connection and support.

¹ After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said: “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’ That day—may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it. May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it. That night—may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months...

BIRTHDAY REGRET.

Our current pain can color everything we see.

¹¹ “Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb? Why were there knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed? For now I would be lying down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest with kings and rulers of the earth, who built for themselves places now lying in ruins, with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day? There the wicked cease from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest. Captives also enjoy their ease; they no longer hear the slave driver’s shout...

DEATH WISH

²⁰ “Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, to those who long for death that does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, who are filled with gladness and rejoice when they reach the grave? Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.” **Job 3**

LIVING MISERY

1. Emotions and pain are part of being human—ACCEPT them.

“We think you ought to know about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die.” **2 Corinthians 1:8-9** NLT

2. You can be completely honest with God (and *trusted* friends) with your pain and emotions—BRING them.

- **We’re encouraged to** “cast all our cares on him, because he cares for us.” **1 Peter 5:7** (James 5:16)
- **It is a releasing-affect on us.** “When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder... Then I let it all out... Suddenly the pressure was gone—my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.” **Ps. 32:3, 5** TM
- **It is part of being known by God and others.** *Sharing*

3. Thoughts of suicide are normal. Suicidal *ideation* is not. DISMISS them.