

REMIND

Job 42:1-6

SUMMARY...

COVID-19 is leaving its mark on our world. People have been impacted physically, mentally, relationally, financially, and spiritually. If we believe that God is good, that He is in control (sovereign), then we must wrestle with the question of “*What is God seeking to accomplish with and through this global pandemic?*” In part, we believe God is using COVID-19 to ‘close the gap’ between what we believe and how we live.

In this new series **5R**, we will explore 5 words each beginning with R. First up: **REMIND**. As we turn to the story of Job, we learn that God reminded Job of two crucial realities that helped close the gap between what he believed and how his belief shaped who he was and how he walked with God.

KEY IDEAS...

- GOD KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE – Job 23:8-10
- GOD WANTS YOU TO SEE HIM – Job 42:5-6

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. *Set the stage:* To “mind the gap” is to recognize that there is a disconnect between what we believe to be true about God and how we live out that truth. But instead of addressing the gap, we simply step over it. One example relates to God’s sovereignty. For instance, we may say that God’s plan always the best plan, yet allow stress, worry, fear and anxiety to show up in our lives when things go south. *Share* - in what ways do you “mind the gap”? How has this impacted you, your relationship with God as well as your relationship with others?
2. As we consider **Job 1:1** – we learn that Job was ‘blameless – a man of complete integrity.’ The assumption of the day (even the assumption of our day) is that suffering was a sign of God’s judgement on people. Thus, suffering is a direct result of sin. Is this true? How are we to understand the suffering of one who was considered to be ‘blameless?’ (to understand the extent of Job’s suffering, refer to Job 1:15-19 and 2:3-10)
3. Read **Job 23:8-10** – why would having knowledge that God knows ‘where you are’ bring comfort in the midst of suffering? Does this cancel out not knowing where God is? In these same verses, Job mentioned that he knew he was being tested and his one desire was to come out the other side of this test refined and purified. COVID-19 is testing us in many ways – so how would you like to come out the other side of this test? What would you like to look like as a result of this challenge (character not appearance)?

4. Read **Job 42:1-6** – what does Job’s response to God’s 77 rhetorical questions in Job 38 – 41 reveal about what Job was ‘reminded’ of? Job made clear that it was through his suffering that he went from being one who had ‘heard about God’ to one who had ‘seen God.’ How are you seeing God so far in this COVID-19 test? Alternatively, recall a time when God revealed himself during a time of suffering or challenge.
5. How big is the GAP between what you believe and how those beliefs about God are impacting who you are and how you live your everyday moments? Have you been just ‘minding the gap?’ What might it look like for God to begin closing the gap?

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED...

“There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.” *Job 1:1 (NLT)*

“Is it because you’re so pious that he accuses you and brings judgment against you? No, it’s because of your wickedness! There’s no limit to your sins.” “LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.” *Job 22:4-5 (NLT)*

“As long as I live, while I have breath from God, my lips will speak no evil, and my tongue will speak no lies. I will never concede that you are right; I will defend my integrity until I die. I will maintain my innocence without wavering. My conscience is clear for as long as I live.” *Job 27:3-6 (NLT)*

“But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” *Job 23:8-10 (NLT)*

Then Job replied to the Lord: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, ‘Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.’ I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.” *Job 42:1-6 (NLT)*

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