



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Job Sermon Series
Supports Session 2: Hope Defined
Sermon Title: "Keeping it Real"
Passage: Job 14:1-14

Connection to Job 14

Job was aware of his own mortality after losing everything and everyone he loved. He was also aware of God's sovereignty. In this passage Job assessed the brevity of human life against the eternal nature of God.

Introduction/Opening

Many of us want others to "keep it real" when we are facing a challenge. When someone says they "kept it real," they are saying they refused to put on a pretense or mask or conceal their meaning in a conversation. When someone "keeps it real," they are completely honest and straight-forward almost to the point of being harsh or offensive. A person often feels the need to "keep it real" in situations where nothing short of the honest truth will suffice.

After losing everything he owned and everyone he loved, Job had a frank and honest discussion with God about the frailty of human life and God's power over all circumstances.

Outline

- I. God desires our honesty (vv. 1-6).
Job is incredibly honest about how he feels in these verses. It is refreshing to know that even when we are confused and struggle about the events of life, God is never shocked or taken off guard. As believers progress in sanctification, we must learn how to process the difficult situations we may experience and bring them before the Lord.
- II. God is patient in the process (vv. 7-12).
 - a. One of the subtle traps Job found was the comparison trap. Notice Job's contrast of himself against the example of a tree (vv. 7-9). Job makes his case by questioning whether someone can recover from severe life hurts in the same way as a tree (vv. 7-10). The answer is that when a believer's hope is fixed upon God, they can certainly have restored hearts and lives (Job 42:12-17). When believers compare themselves and their situations with those of others, it can impede their growth. God, however, was patient with Job's hurt and despondency and slowly led him to ultimate hope, healing, and restoration.

- b. When believers feel hopelessness, we need to turn to counselors, friends, our church body, Scripture, and prayer. God never turns His back or tires of hearing from His children. Regardless of the depth, pain, severity, or length of a believer's suffering, God is patient and faithful to walk with those who trust Him.

III. God is faithful (vv. 13-14).

- a. Throughout Job's dialogue God remained faithful to listen and care. God was infinitely patient with Job's hurt and questions. The believer should pay close attention to the nature of God's faithfulness in these passages. Regardless of Job's disposition, God remained faithful to love and care for Job.
- b. The believer should rest in the knowledge of God's deep compassion for those who struggle with life's hurts and pain. God is strong enough to endure whatever believers face and lead us to hope and healing in Christ. Believers should trust God's care and compassion in the same way we trust His power and sovereignty over all things.

Conclusion

Having incredibly honest discussions with those who "keep it real" in the way Job did can be difficult. As believers, we want to help but often feel ill-equipped to deal with another's pain. The Scriptures direct believers to a God who is unfailing in His patience, love, care, and empathy. Where our abilities fall woefully short at times, Christ never fails. Believers need to point those who are hurting, as well as ourselves, toward Jesus who defines our hope and restores our lives.

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