Pembroke Bible Chapel
Mark Floyd – 2007 Sep 23
Series No. MF-JOB-02

JOB'S THREE FRIENDS

Chapters 4-25

Applying What We've Learned Today…

1. We must exercise caution in making judgements about tragedy-stricken people – it doesn't necessarily mean that they are worse sinners than we are. *(Romans 3:23; 6:23; John 9:1-3)*

2. Rushing to judgement concerning people's problems won't console them.

   - Comforting is an acquired skill. *(2 Cor 1:3,4)*
     - We learn to comfort from those who comfort us when we are troubled.
     - God is the ultimate source of consolation. *(Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:11)*
   - Christians are called to be empathizers. *(1 Corinthians 12:25-26)*

Empathy: *to enter into emotional harmony with others; to understand and identify with their feelings.*

Keys to Being a Comforter/Empathizer

- Don't feel compelled to have all the answers – you probably don't!
- Seek first to understand how the person feels, rather than trying to solve their problem quickly.
  - "no one understands me" – most people seek empathy first, then advice.
  - with people, "fast is slow, and slow is fast".
- Listen carefully to what they have to say; try not to analyze their situation while they are talking; focus on understanding how they feel (James 1:19).
- It's best to wait to be invited to give advice, or at least seek permission to give it (the door often opens once people sense that they are understood).
- Encourage, don't judge.
- Abide in the comfort of God, given to us through Jesus Christ.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies and God of all comfort ..."
(2 Corinthians 1:3)