

# Pick up the Pieces & Start Over

Job's Despair with Life and  
Disappointment in Friends (6:1-30)

# Job speaks of the severity his suffering

- **Job 6:1-3 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Job replied:

<sup>2</sup> "If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales!

<sup>3</sup> It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas no wonder my words have been impetuous.

# Job speaks of the severity his suffering

- **Job 6:4 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshalled against me.

- <sup>5</sup> Does a wild donkey bray when it has grass, or an ox bellow when it has fodder?

# Job speaks of the severity his suffering

- **Job 6:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Is tasteless food eaten without salt, or is there flavour in the white of an egg?

- <sup>7</sup> I refuse to touch it; such food makes me ill.

# Job solicits God for death

- **Job 6:8-9 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> "Oh, that I might have my request, that  
God would grant what I hope for,  
<sup>9</sup> that God would be willing to crush me, to  
let loose his hand and cut me off!

# Job solicits God for death

- **Job 6:10 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> At least I can take comfort in this...

- ...despite the pain, I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

# Job solicits God for death

- **Job 6:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> "What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient?

<sup>12</sup> Do I have the strength of stone? Is my flesh bronze?

<sup>13</sup> Do I have any power to help myself, now that success has been driven from me?

# Job speaks out against his friends

## 1. Genuine friends are committed in support

- **Job 6:14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> "A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.



# Job speaks out against his friends

## 2. Genuine friends are reliable not inconsistent

### **Job 6:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow

<sup>16</sup> when darkened by thawing ice and swollen with melting snow,

<sup>17</sup> but that cease to flow in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their channels.

# Job speaks out against his friends

3. Genuine friends stay courageous in every circumstance

**Job 6:21 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> Now you too have proved to be of no help; you see something dreadful and are afraid.

# Job speaks out against his friends

4. Genuine friends attempt much but do the minimum at least

- **Job 6:22-23 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Have I ever said, 'Give something on my behalf, pay a ransom for me from your wealth,  
<sup>23</sup> deliver me from the hand of the enemy, ransom me from the clutches of the ruthless'?

# Job speaks out against his friends

## 5. Genuine friends give truthful instructions

### **Job 6:24-25 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> "Teach me, and I will be quiet; show me where I have been wrong.

<sup>25</sup> How painful are honest words! But what do your arguments prove?

# Job speaks out against his friends

6. Genuine friends listen carefully not judge carelessly

- **Job 6:26 (MSG)**

<sup>26</sup> You pretend to tell me what's wrong with my life, but treat my words of anguish as so much hot air.

- **Job 6:26 (NLT)**

<sup>26</sup> Do you think your words are convincing when you disregard my cry of desperation?

# Job speaks out against his friends

## 7. Genuine friends do not undermine friendship

- **Job 6:27 (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> You would even cast lots for the fatherless and barter away your friend.

- **Job 6:27 (MSG)**

<sup>27</sup> Are people mere things to you? Are friends just items of profit and loss?

# Job speaks out against his friends

## 8. Genuine friends acts with integrity and honour

- **Job 6:28-30 (NIV)**

- <sup>28</sup> "But now be so kind as to look at me. Would I lie to your face?

- <sup>29</sup> Relent, do not be unjust; reconsider, for my integrity is at stake.

- <sup>30</sup> Is there any wickedness on my lips? Can my mouth not discern malice?

# Characteristics of Genuine Friends

1. Genuine friends are committed in support
2. Genuine friends are reliable not inconsistent
3. Genuine friends stay courageous in every circumstance
4. Genuine friends attempt much
5. Genuine friends give truthful instructions
6. Genuine friends listen carefully not judge carelessly
7. Genuine friends do not undermine friendship
8. Genuine friends acts with integrity and honour