

How Not To Be A Friend from **Job 3-27** | April 19, 2026 | Luke Dahlenburg

How can we be good friends to suffering people?

Don't be like Job's friends.

1. The Situation (Job 2:11-3:7)

How To Be A Friend = *Sit and be silent, Job 2:11-13.*

How To Be A Friend = *Encourage lament to God.*

2. The Speeches (Job 4-27)

Three Speech Cycles: Job 3-14, Job 15-21 and Job 22-27.

3. The Assumptions

Friends assume: God is just = You must have sinned and aren't innocent.

Elihpaz → Disciple. Bildad → Justice. Zophar → Wisdom.

How To Be A Friend = *Consider the state of the person, not just the correctness of the statement. Gently point to Jesus. Don't assume you know why, often we cannot know why.*

4. The Response of Job

Job assumes: I'm innocent = God must be unjust.

- a. Take God to court → Job 31:35-37, Job 23:1-7, Job 13:20-25, Job 13:1-4.
- b. God feels like a bully → Job 27:2, Job 16:9, Job 13:5.

- c. Bitterly disappointed with his friends → Job 21:34, Job 17:10, Job 16:1-3.
- d. Job still hopes in God = Job 19:25, Job 9:32-35, Job 9:15.

How To be A Friend = Point to Jesus, our advocate (1 John 2:1).

5. How can we be good friends to suffering people?

Don't be like Job's friends. Be more like Jesus.

We all need:

- a. A mediator (Job 9:32-35) A redeemer (Job 19:25-27) Mercy of God (Job 9:15).
- b. Big truths of God, are meant for big chaos in our life. But use wisdom.
- c. Draw on God's comfort to us, for others (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).

MY ONE THING

What's one thing that struck, challenged, or encouraged you today? Write it down and share it with someone.