

## Job 6:14

*To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.*

When we read the book of Job, we have to wonder; what if the tables were turned, and what happened to Job, happened to one of the other three of his friends? Would they want the same words spoken to them, that they spoke to Job? Job even says to them,

† *“I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all!” Job 16:2*

Yet a brother or sister in the Lord may be struggling with something, and we are quick to throw scripture out to them, telling them how bad they are, or even sugarcoating the truth with words of prosperity when the Lord has brought us along side of him or her, or even them, to be there as His spokesperson, or His shoulder to cry on, or His arm to embrace them, His ear to listen, or even His words of correction.

Thinking of what I said about the tables being turned on Job’s friends, we can do the same thing. What if instead of it being our friend, brother, or sister in the Lord, or even a coworker, or family member; what if the tables were turned, and it was us going through what they are going through right now?

What if we lost our job, how would we want them to respond to us?

What if our spouse left us, how would we want them to respond to us?

What if our child were the one going down a dark path, how would we want them to respond to us?

What if we were the ones who had backslidden, how would we want them to respond to us?

What if we were the ones with that illness or cancer or disease (Think like what Job was going through), how would we want them to respond to us?

What if we were that lost person, who had rejected Jesus Christ (Yes, we all have been there), how would we want them to respond to us?

Just think about it. Who has God placed in your path recently, that He wants to use you to minister to them? Now think once again, what if the tables were turned, how would you want them to treat or speak to you?

Would we want the harsh, judgmental words that we have been giving them?

Would we want to feel condemned by them, just like Job’s friends were trying to make him feel?

Would we want a bunch of hot air and empty talk?

Or would we just want someone to be there for us?

Sometimes, silence can speak louder than words, especially when someone has lost a loved one, or their loved one or child has gone astray.

Whatever we would want others to be to us during those times, let's be that to them, so they won't say about us, "*Miserable comforters are you all!*"

† **Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT2)** *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

† **Proverbs 18:24** *A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*