

## 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 you read the book of Job, you have to wonder that if the tables were turned, and what was happening to Job, happened to one of the other three, if they would want the same words that they spoke to Job, spoken to them? 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 you 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.

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 your friend, brother or sister in the Lord, coworker, or family member, the tables were turned and it was you going through what they are going through?

What if you lost your job, how would you want them to respond to you?

What if your spouse left you, how would you want them to respond to you?

What if your child was the one going down a dark path, how would you want them to respond to you?

What if you were the one who had backslidden, how would you want them to respond to you?

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

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

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

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

Would you want a bunch of hot air and empty talk, or just someone to be there?

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

Whatever you would want others to be to you during these times, be that to them, so they won’t say about you, ***“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.*