

# I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK: WHAT DO YOU NEED?

April 28, 2024

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



## Job 2:11-13

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. 13 They sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

## 2 Timothy

9 Do your best to come to me soon, 10 for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to

Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. 12 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. 15 You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Job goes through an overwhelming trauma: he loses children, his livelihood, and his health—in rapid succession. His friends do a sacred thing: they come to him, then they sit in patient presence with him.

**South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 [southelkhorncc.org](http://southelkhorncc.org)

They “tore their robes” and threw “dust in the air upon their heads.” One church person remembers how, “In the church I was raised in, the parishioners would fill the refrigerator of the one in trauma with casseroles. A few folks would descend on a home and clean it top to bottom. It was their way of tearing their clothes and rubbing ashes on themselves.” What are other modern-day practices that might emulate these embodied acts of grief and solidarity?

3. While Job asked for nothing, Paul is active. He has requests. He has needs and he is making them known. How difficult or easy is it for you to make your needs known? Why do you think that is?
4. Reflect on a time when you experienced difficulty, grief, or a big transition. What did you need? How did people show up in ways that comforted, helped, or strengthened you?
5. Why might the open-ended question “what do you need?” be important to ask when someone is going through a tough time?
6. When someone has hurt your feelings or done something hurtful toward you, what do you need from them to help make things better? Is an “I’m sorry” enough or are there other repair efforts that are important and healing to you?