

I WILL HOPE IN HIM  
PNW District Convention  
June 7–8, 2022

**Session 4: Epilogue (Job 42)**

**Task 1** Read the text<sup>1</sup> below. Comment.

Forgiveness and closure go hand-in-hand.

I need to forgive myself, the other person, the situation, the reality that I refused to accept for the longest time, the opinions of others, the unsolicited advice, the gossip, the rumors, the way that everything turned out.

I need to stop telling myself that I'll experience closure after a conversation or an agreement. That I'll one day wake up and say to myself, "wow, time really does heal all wounds."

*It doesn't.* Time doesn't do anything but pass unless we're willing to do the difficult work of leaning into the pain and feeling it. Dealing with it. Healing from it.

I need to grieve the life I was planning.

I need to grieve the naïve but hopeful romantic in me, who never knew the pain of heartache.

I need to grieve the part of myself that still held onto the delusional notion that I was in control of the way my life ends up.

*I'm not.*

I need to forgive myself for that which I did not know at the time.

I need to forgive the critics, the gossipers, the bystanders.

I need to grieve the idea of who and where I wanted to be.

And I need to forgive the real me.

And when I close the door on closure,

I open the door to myself.

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<sup>1</sup> Hannah Rose, "Forgiveness: Closing the Door on Closure," *Psychology Today*, July 1, 2019, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/working-through-shame/201907/closing-the-door-closure>.

**Task 2** Read Job 42:1–6. Compare these seven translations. What do you observe?

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert Alter: Therefore do I recant, And I repent in dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ CEB: Therefore, I relent and find comfort on dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clines: So I submit, and I accept consolation for my dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ CSB: Therefore, I reject my words and am sorry for them; I am dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ NABRE: Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ NASB: Therefore I retract, And I repent, *sitting* on dust and ashes.

\_\_\_\_\_ NIV: Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

**Task 3** Read 42:7–17. Choose the statement below that strikes you as most significant and explain why.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Lord’s verdict: Job spoke “correctly” (Heb. נָכוֹן) about Job (42:7, 8). Job’s friends did not.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The friends’ error requires sacrifice (42:8).

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The friends’ error requires prayers from Job so that God will not punish them (42:8)

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Job’s “fortunes” are restored right after he prays for his friends (42:10).

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. God gives Job a double portion of what he lost. Note Ex 22:3–4.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Job’s final reported act is to endow his three beautiful daughters (who are described and given names) with an inheritance alongside their brothers (who are not).

**Task 4** Read and react to the text below.

Thoughts from Job for sufferers:

- 1) *Do not* wallpaper your suffering over with God-talk. *Do not* let someone else do this to you.
- 2) *Do* say to your suffering, “I see you!” Acknowledge it. Let it be what it is.
- 3) *Do* say to God, “Nevertheless!” *Do* say about God, “Though he slay me, yet I will hope in him” (Job 13:15).
- 4) *Do not* expect to gain insight from your suffering, the kind you gain from a book or a teacher. Insight is good. But we do not avoid or lessen suffering by becoming smarter.
- 5) *Do* trust suffering to make you deeper, richer, more human. Suffering will do this for us in a way nothing else can.

And do not ask how this works.