

Daily Devotion For June 11, 2020

¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for **seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him**, because they saw how great his suffering was." Job 2:13

We live in a nation of hurting people. From the month of January until today, our nation has been stunned by the Covid-19 pandemic with 2 million people being diagnosed with the coronavirus, and 113,000 people who have lost their lives. Add to that, the racial tensions across our nation has also added to the sorrow and suffering.

As we studied the book of Job on Sunday, we saw how Job's three friends came to visit and upon seeing his suffering, sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was."

King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 3:7 "**There is A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;**" The Black Lives Matter movement reminds us that there is a time to speak when we see racial injustice, prejudice, and discrimination. During the internment years, churches remained silent when 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were interned because of their race. Solomon was wise when he said, "there is a time to speak."

On the other had, Solomon said that there is a time to be silent. Often times the best response to another person's suffering is silence. Sometimes as we visit a suffering individual we think that we have to say something "spiritual" or give an insight to suffering. However, Job's friends demonstrate that what a person needs most is just the empathetic presence of a friend.

Thought For The Day: How do you respond to the suffering of a friend? When it is appropriate to speak and when is it appropriate to remain silent? To whom can you be a friend to this week?

Today's Prayer Focus: Continue to pray for John Mitchell and the Kuwatani family. Add this week's prayer fuel to your daily prayers. God Bless!