

**Focus passage: Job 9:25-35**

- 25 "My days are swifter than a runner;  
they flee away; they see no good.  
26 They go by like skiffs of reed,  
like an eagle swooping on the prey.  
27 If I say, 'I will forget my complaint,  
I will put off my sad face, and be of good cheer,'  
28 I become afraid of all my suffering,  
for I know you will not hold me innocent.  
29 I shall be condemned;  
why then do I labor in vain?  
30 If I wash myself with snow  
and cleanse my hands with lye,  
31 yet you will plunge me into a pit,  
and my own clothes will abhor me.  
32 For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him,  
that we should come to trial together.  
33 There is no arbiter between us,  
who might lay his hand on us both.  
34 Let him take his rod away from me,  
and let not dread of him terrify me.  
35 Then I would speak without fear of him,  
for I am not so in myself.

*What stands out to you from this passage?*

*Why do you think Job feels in his situation?*

*In v.28 he describes a sense of guilt before God. Do you feel like you are innocent or guilty before God? Why?*

*Job's friends express the notion that God punishes the guilty, so Job must be suffering for something he has done. How does Job handle this dilemma, believing himself innocent (eg. **Job 9:20-21**) yet hearing from friends he must be guilty because of his suffering?*

*Job doesn't believe he could stand before God or question God. **Read Job 9:1-12.** Why does he think this way?*

*Because God seems too far above humanity and too distant, Job wishes for an arbiter (v.33), for someone to mediate or represent us before God. What would this arbiter do?*

*We who know Christ recognize that he is able to fulfill this role. Since he is both fully God and fully human, he can be the one mediator who intercedes on our behalf. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and Romans 8:33-34** and discuss what it means for Christ to be that mediator.*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*

