

Job 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;

Analysis

Bildad's counsel 'if thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty' assumes Job hasn't already done so. The conditional 'if' adds insult to injury, implying Job's prayerlessness caused his calamity. Well-meaning advice becomes cruelty when it misunderstands the situation.

Historical Context

Wisdom literature emphasizes seeking God, but Bildad's timing reveals insensitivity. His advice, though containing truth, exemplifies speaking the right words at the wrong time (Proverbs 25:11).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you offer spiritual counsel without making assumptions?

2. When has conditional advice ('if you would just...') minimized your pain?

Interlinear Text

אִם	אֶתְּהָ	תִּשְׁחַר	אֶל	אֵל	וְאֵל	יְיָ
H518	H859	If thou wouldst seek	H413	unto God	H413	to the Almighty
		H7836		H410		H7706

וְתִתְחַנֵּן:
and make thy supplication
H2603

Additional Cross-References

Job 11:13 (Parallel theme): If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

Job 5:8 (References God): I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: