

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Job 19: 2-4

*“How long will you torment me and crush me with words?*

*Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me.*

*If it is true that I have gone astray, my error remains my concern alone”*

Luke 6: 37, 38

*“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Job had to contend with a lot of criticism as he lost his family, livestock, possessions and wealth to Satan. He complained bitterly about being criticised. (19:2) He rants against those who try to comfort him and to try and get him to turn against God. It is where our modern day term ‘Job’s comforter’ comes from.

Job stuck to his belief in God throughout his adversity and we should too as we are tested with isolation, anxiety, financial uncertainty and loss of loved ones. Eventually Job regained what he had lost. Similarly everything will come right for us if we put our trust in God.

Luke’s Gospel points out God’s way for us when faced with criticism when he quotes Jesus who said *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”* (6:37) Jesus uses the measuring of grain in the market as an example of where sharp practices were sometimes employed.

Even though we live in stressful times we should strive to avoid criticism and point scoring for none of us are faultless.

*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”* (6:41)