

Session 7

TRAUMA

Christ's comfort in deep suffering

Trauma, Christ and Beauty

Job 40-42

Steve Midgley



Warnings and ambitions...

- Hard things
 -
- Limited time
 -
- But better questions

Trauma, Christ and beauty

- Nothing simple about speaking into the experience of trauma
 -
- Nothing simple about the closing chapters of Job

1. God's beauty in the face of trauma

- Trauma is ugly
 -
- Evil stains

Job 19:17-20

My breath is offensive to my wife;
I am loathsome to my own family.
Even the little boys scorn me;
when I appear, they ridicule me.
All my intimate friends detest me;
those I love have turned against me.
I am nothing but skin and bones;
I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.

Job 21:5

Look at me and be appalled;
clap your hand over your mouth.

Job 9:2-3

But how can mere mortals prove their innocence before God?

Though they wished to dispute with him,
they could not answer him one time out of a thousand.

Reading: Job 38:1-41

1. God's beauty in the face of trauma

- A beauty that rouses the heavens to sing (38:7)
- A beauty that not even chaos and evil can obscure (38: 8, 12-15)

1. God's beauty in the face of trauma

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalm 19:1

1. God's beauty in the face of trauma

One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:4-5)

2. God's power in the face of evil

Reading: Job 40:6 - 41:11

2. God's power in the face of evil

Smoke pours from its nostrils
as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.
Its breath sets coals ablaze,
and flames dart from its mouth.
Strength resides in its neck;
dismay goes before it.

Job 41:20-22



2. God's power in the face of evil

The folds of its flesh are tightly joined;
they are firm and immovable.

Its chest is hard as rock,
hard as a lower millstone.

When it rises up, the mighty are terrified;
they retreat before its thrashing.

Job 41:23-25



2. God's power in the face of evil

Evil frightens me. It is meant to. I am meant to be humbled by supernatural evil so that I know – deeply know – that it is too strong for me. That I cannot resist it on my own. Death and the one who holds the power of death – that is the devil – are too strong for me.

Christopher Ash, Job



2. God's power in the face of evil

Even the mystery of evil is God's mystery. Even Satan, the Leviathan, is God's Satan, God's pet, if we dare to put it like this... while evil may be terrible, it cannot and will not ever go one tiny fraction beyond the leash on which God has put it. And it will not go on forever.

Christopher Ash, Job



3. Christ's beauty in the face of ugliness

Job as an anticipation of Christ

The cross: ultimate ugliness that becomes ultimate beauty

3. Christ's beauty in the face of ugliness

[Jesus] shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death

Hebrews 2:14-15



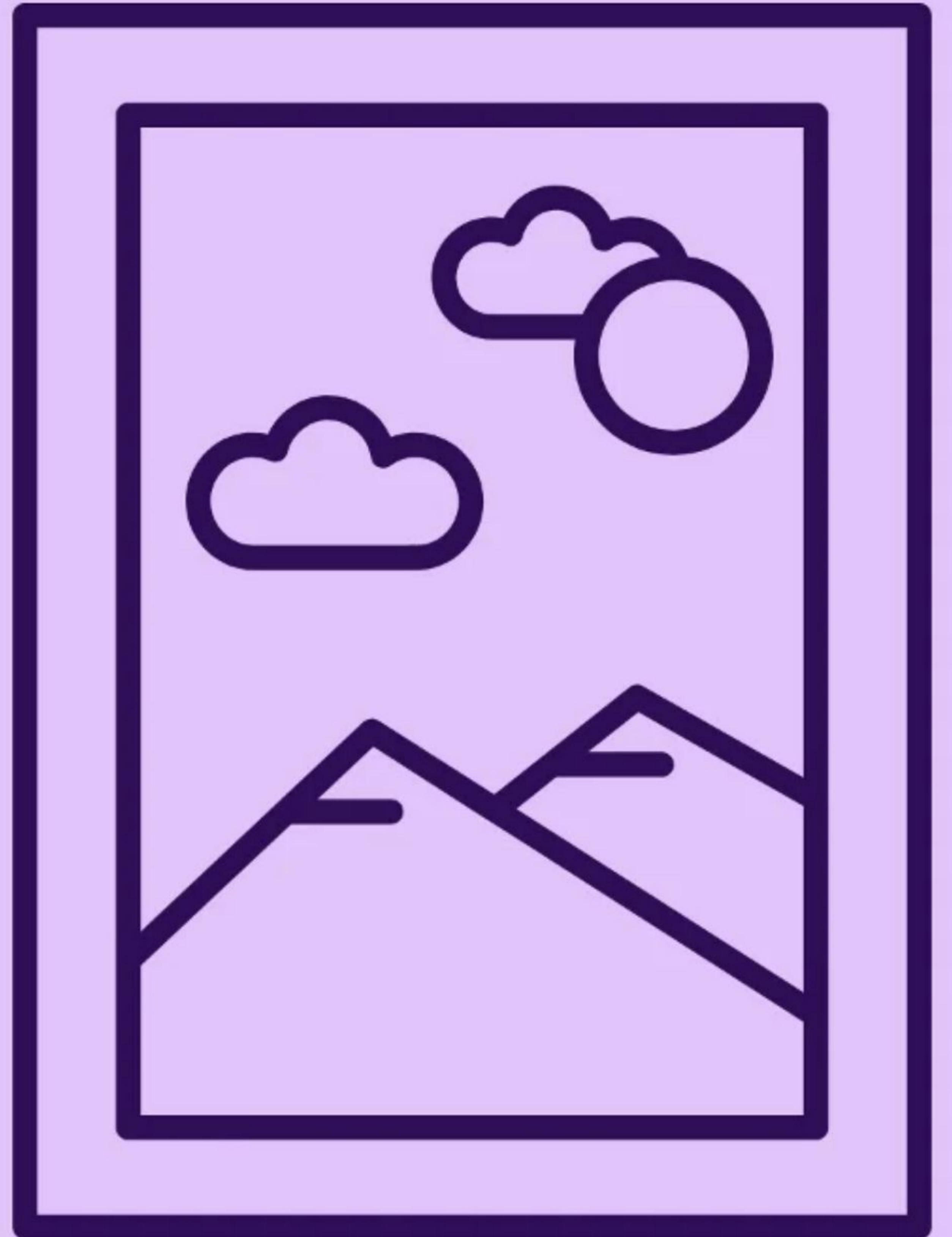
Six concluding resolutions

1. Less afraid of trauma
2. Deeper compassion to those who suffer
3. Include and involve those who have known trauma
4. Admit what we don't know and ask better questions
5. Hold firm to what we do know and speak confidently of Christ
6. Renew our worship of the one who, through his death, defeated evil and sets us free from the fear of death.

Heading

Body

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on menu to replace image*



Heading

- Bullets
- Bullets
- Bullets

Q&A

Top questions

Pinned

Newest

Oldest

Answered

There are no unanswered questions.



