I. Job’s story is not isolated. It continues into the New Testament and is true today.

 A. Poetic license is taken to tell Job’s story; however, that is not the case in the NT.

 1. Simon Peter emerges “on the stage” to continue the saga.

 a. Luke 22:31’s dialog does not allow us to mistake the characters.

 b. Matthew 16:23 exposes the presence of Job’s nemesis.

 2. 1 Corinthians 5 portrays real characters.

 a. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 presents the other side of the coin.

 3. 1 John 3:8 is not intended to be poetic.

 4. Revelation 12 presents the “real” story behind Christmas.

II. In the speeches of Job’s friends we are to hear to echoes of the Evil One.

 A. The voice of evil/Satan often sounds very helpful and disguises itself as spiritual advice.

 1. This has been true since the story of Adam and Eve.

 2. 1 John 4:1 gives a command the disciples learned through experience.

 a. This is the White Horse of the Four Horsemen in Rev. 4-6.

 1. “But they are so nice …”

 2. “It’s a religion of peace …”

 3. “They’re such a strong Christian family.”

 4. “I can’t believe she said that, did that.”

 3. Where are we most susceptible to spiritual deceit?

 b. Always begin with the “Love Test.”

III. The speeches expose the sound of spiritual deceit in its most helpful forms.

 A. Eliphaz – “You reap what you sow, Job.” “If the shoe fits …” Job 5 and 6

 B. Job’s response, “You’re no help.” Job 6:21

 C. Spiritual help in the face of despair is hard to find. Job 6:14

 1. The book of Job argues against the “stiff upper lip.”

 a. Queen Elizabeth needed to hear Romans 12:15 at Diana’s death.

IV. Bildad’s comments make the cut deeper. “Your children got what they deserved.” Job 8:4

 A. “You need to take it like a man.” Job 8:5, 6

 1. “You need to buck up and get back on that spiritual horse.”

 2. “You’re godly, so grin and bear it.”

 a. Do you know anyone grinning for Jesus?

V. Job refuses to grin for Jesus; but he does cry out to Him in Job 9:33-35.

 A. Jesus is not grinning in Gethsemane. Should we?

VI. Zophar champions the “tell it like it is” crowd.

 A. “Job, you’re an outright liar.” Job 11:2

 B. “The sun will come out tomorrow.” Job 11:13ff.

VII. Round One ends with Job’s thank you note.

 A. “You smear me, you worthless physicians.” Job 13:4

 B. Christians with spiritual stethoscopes and little black bags still make house calls.

 C. Job portrays what it is like to get smeared with Christian love and advice.