

Scripture Reading Job 40:1-2; 6-8

*... the LORD answered Job, and said: "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."*

*... "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"*

Last August, my sister, standing in her bedroom, shot her rescued dog and then lay down on her bed, turned the gun on herself, and they died.

I was stunned, horrified, and angry. I tried to figure out why. I wanted to understand. Was her chronic pain and psychological suffering the motivation for this sickening act? Was the call of death to her a temptation? Was God calling her home?

When horrible things happen, I ask God how could this be? I do not understand, and I object to God not answering my questions. How could this be God's will? And if it is God's will, how can I be reconciled to it? Should I contend with the Almighty to answer me and condemn God for not doing so? My anger tempts me to turn away from God and renounce God's love.

Lent is a time to reflect on what tempts us and how like Jesus we can live not on what tempts us, but by the word of God. I do not understand things. I get angry at God. Then I pray not for understanding, but God's comfort. Should I accept the wisdom of the song there will be an answer and Let It Be? Maybe there will not be an answer. Like Job, I am humbled. I realize my limitations and cannot understand our unlimited God and so, I am marked with ashes.

*Prayer:* Lord help us to be like Mary. Let us be your servants and let it be according to your word. *Adapted from Luke 1:38.*

-Submitted by Scott Walter for the Twenty-third Reading of Lent.