

Every winter my parents use to give us the talk, as people who lived in the land of 10,000 lakes, all of which eventually froze over each winter. Be very careful when you go out on the ice for whatever. Did I ever tell you about our youth pastor's old Hudson, a snow-covered lake, and...? Well, maybe another time. Thin ice was initially and eventually a serious matter that swallowed up many who chose not to take heed.

People who talk likewise need to be careful of stepping out onto thin ice with their words. The scriptures remind us to be careful with our words. The book of Job reminds us of the power of words to support us or tempt us to venture out onto thin ice.

Carefully read: Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Psalm 111:10

Cringe-worthy reads: 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Job 2:11-3:26

A Warning: just be careful when you think you have something to say!

We have serious needs for friends (Job 2:11-3; Prov. 17:17)

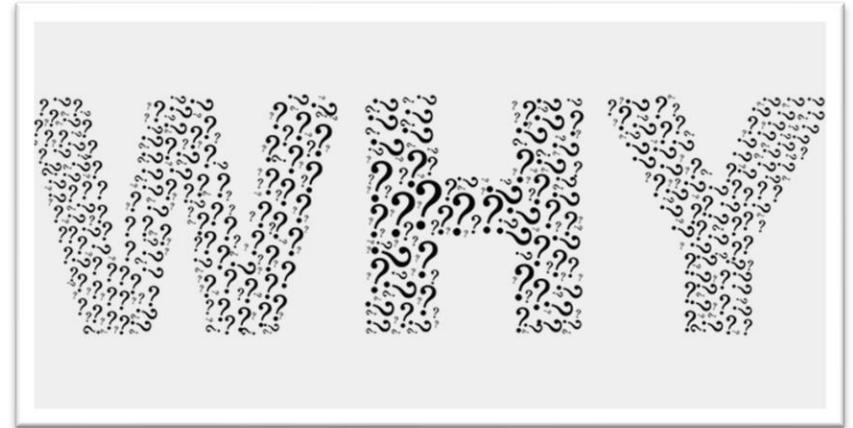
Good friends help us grow in wisdom and understanding

Persistent pain opens wounds in the soul

Even those who fear the Lord can "secretly" harbor "lesser fear"
(3:25)

Personal Application and Conversations

1. Talk about a time when your words got you in trouble.
2. What are you doing to take care of your soul?
3. How have your friends helped you, or discouraged you, from gaining wisdom and understanding of God and his will amidst adversity?
4. When have you experienced Job's frame of mind in chapter 3, either yourself or in the life of a friend or family member?
Where did you go from there?
5. What has God revealed to you about your own vulnerability to discouragement or to give up?



Stepping Out on Thin Ice

Job 2:11-3:26

**Pastor John Ploog
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