

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Wednesday October 6, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 55:1-15*
Job 15:1-35
Matthew 5:27-36

Today's Scripture Verse: *Should the wise answer with windy knowledge, and fill themselves with the east wind? Should they argue in unprofitable talk, or in words with which they can do no good? (The words of Eliphaz the Temanite, in Job 15:2-3)*

What it means: Eliphaz is one of the friends who come to advise and comfort Job, in his time of great discomfort and loss. The advice he proceeds to offer is to fear God and trust God's righteousness. Like the other friends, his advice may not have been helpful in Job's situation, but the verse quoted above has some genuine merit: The "windy knowledge" of the wise may be correct but still do no good for the one who is suffering, because it does not speak to the person's inner sense of their situation, and may even become pompous – reflecting the inflated self-esteem of the giver of the advice instead of helping the person who needs the help.

Reflection: When we are called upon to give advice, God, may we remember to be listeners first, and to seek an understanding of the way the recipient of our counsel would see their situation and receive what we might have to say.

