

# “The Problem of Pain”

John 9:1-7

9/5/21

## Discussion Questions

Read the passage. What did you hear from the message that was new to you? What was a statement that stuck out for you? What did you find that was most helpful? What are you unsure of or disagree with?

*As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

*<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

*<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:1-7*

1. When it comes to your view of life and pain and suffering, do you tend to lean towards being a romantic or a cynic? If neither, characterize your view.
2. During periods of suffering, do you tend to respond with anger or guilt? What about your response to annoyances? Annoyances are short, momentary events like locking your keys in the car or having to drive to the hardware store for the third time to get something you need to finish a project.
3. Share a significant time in your life that you really suffered. What happened? What kind of pain did you feel? How intense was it? How did it affect your life? Why did you suffer? How did you get through it and what did you learn?
4. Have you ever experienced tragedy in your life? Share about it and how you got through it. Later on, what sense did you make of the tragedy or do you still find it to be senseless? Did people say anything to you at the time that you found hurtful? What did they say? What did people say to you that you found helpful?
5. The underlying assumption to the premise that suffering is the result of sin is the belief that God owes us a comfortable and pain-free life. Why do people carry this unexamined belief?
6. Share what you are grateful for in your life? How good do you have it? Do you feel that you deserve the life that you have or do you think you are receiving more than you actually deserve?

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7. Interact with this statement: “Suffering is the result of human sin in general but is not the result of sin in particular.”
8. Share a time when God was faithful to his promise in Romans 8:28. If you forget what it says, read it.
9. Share how your life has been shaped by pain and suffering.
10. Further comments, questions and insights.