

“The Problem of Pain”

John 9:1-7

9/5/21

Outline

Introduction

The Classical Framing of the Question:

“If God is so good, why does he allow people to suffer? And if God is so powerful, why doesn’t he stop it?”

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

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

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “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

I. The False Views of Pain and Suffering.

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”(vss. 1-2)

The Anger Track

The Guilt Track

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Luke 13:1-5

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

“But unless you repent, you too will perish.” (vs. 3 & 5)

The Relationship between Sin and Suffering

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

⁹ *He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;*

¹⁰ *he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:8-10*

“There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

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He died *“once and for all.”* Hebrews 10:10

The Cross Rule Three Things Out

- Suffering is not payment for _____.
- Suffering is not because God does not _____.
- Suffering is not because God does not _____.

II. The Right Way to View Pain and Suffering.

“but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (vs.3)

Joseph

“You meant it to harm me but God intended it all for good.” Genesis 50:19

Jesus

Application