

SERMON OUTLINE John 9:1-4

That the Works of God Might Be Displayed

THE REASONING AND CONSISTENCY OF WHY

THE PREVAILING ANSWER TO WHY

JESUS' EXPLANATION OF WHY

EIGHT TRUTHS ABOUT SUFFERING

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main point of all of this is that God is working in and through every hardship in order to display His glory and bless His people. The main takeaways are for unbelievers to learn repentance from their suffering and for believers to find hope in the midst of every trial, knowing that God is working in and through every one.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Can you think of a time you asked “why” when faced with hardship? Why was that an important question for you? Did you ever get an answer?
3. Which of the people in the Bible who asked “why” can you most relate to? Why?
4. If one of the 12 year olds at Grace Church asked you why God allows people to be born blind, what would you tell them?
5. What do you think of the Disciples’ assumption as to why the man had been born blind? Have you ever felt like you were suffering as punishment for a sin you committed? How does this passage help you better understand that kind of thing?
6. Can you imagine a scenario in which it would be good for God to cause someone to be born blind? Would that person have a legitimate complaint before God (of injustice or unkindness or cruelty or something like that)?
7. God often provides examples in the physical realm to help His people better understand what He’s doing in the spiritual realm. Does the man’s physical healing better help you understand and appreciate his spiritual healing (and yours)? If so, how?
8. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Ask one godly person who knows you well how you might better honor Jesus.
10. Spend some time this week considering the question of how God relates to your suffering. Try to find three or four key biblical passages that speak to this issue. Share whatever thoughts or conclusions you have in DG.
11. Make a list of people you know who are suffering. Spend some time this week praying for them to look to God and find the comfort He alone can provide. Send them a note of encouragement.
12. Pray for and share the good news of Jesus with one non-Christian this week that their suffering might not be in vain.
13. Commit to a Bible reading plan that will help you read the entire Bible and ask someone to join you.
14. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
15. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you’ve both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

16. Adoration. Praise God for being omniscient, omnipotent, and omnibenevolent. Praise God for being sovereign over all. Praise God that He is infinitely glorious, greater than you could ever imagine. Praise God that He is perfect in all His ways. Praise God that He is merciful toward His suffering people.
17. Confess. Confess any doubt or disbelief you have in your suffering. Confess any ways you’ve been overconfident in your theological conclusions (like the Disciples in this passage). Confess any ways you’ve allowed your heart to grow cold to God.
18. Thanksgiving. Thank God for working all things together for His greatest glory and the greatest good of His people (including you!). Thank God that not a single moment of your suffering is wasted or pointless.
19. Supplication. Ask God to comfort someone you know who is suffering. Ask God to save someone you know who is lost.