

“A Blind Man is Healed, pt. 1”

John #28

John 9:1-12

May 20, 2018

**Scripture Reading: John 9:1-12**

### **Introduction**

Pain shrinks our world so that all we can focus on is the pain

**Big Idea:** Jesus is with us when we suffer, and his purposes are good.

### **Context: Book of Signs**

1. Turning Water into Wine | 2:1-11
2. Healing the Nobleman's Son | 4:46-53
3. The Pool of Bethesda | 5:1-29
4. Feeding the 5,000 | 6:1-14
5. Walking on Water | 6:16-24
6. Healing a Blind Man | 9:1-12

### **Asking Why | vs. 1-2**

- Physical Suffering Due To:
  - Our own sin | James 5:14-15
  - Others' sin | 2 Samuel 4:4
  - Spiritual attack | Mark 9:17-18
  - Mysterious | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Karma — a person's actions will determine their fate
  - Things aren't often that neat and tidy | Psalm 73:1-12
  - Karma = incompatible with the **[gospel]**
- Spurgeon — Never attribute any special sorrow endured by men to some special sin...You cannot judge of a man's state before God by that which happens to him in the order of providence: and it is very unkind, and ungenerous, and almost inhuman, to sit down, like the friends of Job, and suppose that, because Job is greatly afflicted, he must therefore be greatly sinful. It is not so. All afflictions are not chastisements for sin; there are some afflictions that have quite another end and object.

### **God's Purpose | vs. 3-5**

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 — <sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. <sup>18</sup>So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

## **God's Grace | vs. 6-12**

1. Jesus enters into the mess of our suffering
2. Jesus brings new creation out of our suffering
  - a. N.T. Wright — New creation always seems puzzling. Nobody in the story could quite figure out whether the man was the same or not. Sometimes when people receive the good news of Jesus it so transforms their lives that people ask the same question: is this really the same person? Can someone who used to lie and steal, to cheat and swear, have become a truthful, wholesome, wise human being? The answer is yes, this can and does happen. In the same way, after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples are faced with the astonishing question: is this really Jesus? Again the answer is yes. New creation does happen. Healing does happen. Lives can be transformed. And the question then is the one they asked the man: how did it happen? How *does* it happen? The answer given throughout the gospel is, of course, 'through Jesus'.
3. Jesus uses our suffering to strengthen us for mission

### **For Those Not Currently Suffering**

1. Invest in community
2. Invest in foundational truth
3. Enter into others' suffering

### **For Those Currently Suffering**

1. Cling to Jesus, his promises, and his people

### **Benediction**

1 Peter 2:9 — We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.