

Title: Life's Trials and the Works of God

Passage: John 9:1-12

Key Truths:

- We must trust in Jesus.
- God is in control.
- Our final destiny is secure in His hands.
- Even if there is a price to be paid for following Jesus, we must be prepared to pay it.
- We are always children of God through faith in Christ as Lord.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How has God been glorified in your life through past trials or times of difficulty?
- Through what situation or weakness can you glorify God?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Hymn: God, Moves in a Mysterious Way

There are different melodies to God Moves in a Mysterious Way.

This is the one we sang Sunday:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znmZswr2J2w>

This is also the same one but includes more history to the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjPR09kdCgc>

This version was originally composed by Grace Community Church.

Introduction

When times of trial happens, we are tempted to ask "Why me? Why now?"

Passage:

John 9:1-12

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva.

Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

Feast of Tabernacles

- Festival in rejoicing God for His provision of the harvest. Lasted for 7 days.

Previously

- People's opinions were divided as to who Jesus is (good or bad). Good in doing miracles. But bad because He wasn't following traditions.

John 9:1-2

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- Sometimes the religious leaders would ask questions to try to trap Jesus.
 - But here, question of sincerity by disciples.

who sinned, this man or his parents

Exodus 34:7

keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

- People commonly thought that trials came because of sin.
 - Ex: Achan's sin
 - One sins and difficult circumstances followed due to parent's choices.

John 9:3a

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,

- Jesus was not saying people were sinless.
 - All have sinned and we are all sinners.
 - God has complete right to punish sin as He sees fit.
- Truth: here, it was not because of sin that the man was born blind.

John 9:3b

that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- God has a purpose and plan in everything that happens.
 - Here, it was for the works of God to be displayed.

Exodus 4:10-11

But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

John 9:4-5

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Compare: Only one person has lived that was perfect and without sin.

- Did He live a painless life? No.
 - He willingly took on suffering of sin for us.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

John 9:6-7

Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

- Other blind men have been healed by Jesus:

- Matthew 20
- Mark 8
- But the the method here was unique.
 - It is not the method that makes the difference but rather the Person.

Tradition of Sabbath

- Day of occasion: the Sabbath
 - Religious leaders accused Jesus in breaking the Sabbath by doing work.

Contrast: *he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva*

- Jesus intentionally breaks the religious leaders teachings that “spitting on the ground” and “making mud” was akin to work.

John 9:8-9

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”

- The resulting change in the man perplexed others - but the change was clear to all those who saw.

John 9:25b

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

- man’s testimony
 - Echoes our own: we were blind but now we see!

John 9:35-38

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshipped him.

- Knowing who Jesus is, he now worshipped Him.

Application

- We must trust in Jesus.
- God is in control.
- Our final destiny is secure in His hands.

- Even if there is a price to be paid for following Jesus, we must be prepared to pay it.
- We are always children of God through faith in Christ as Lord.