

Jesus is the Light of the World

October 22, 2017

Scripture:

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Jn. 9:1-5 ESV)

From the Introduction:

Sometimes God allows suffering (which naturally affects everyone in our God-defying world) because He has a greater purpose that is not always understood at first. However, during those moments when we find ourselves hurting, we often find little comfort in the fact that God may have a greater purpose.

New Creation Assembly of God
4933 Rutherford Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

1. The disciples _____ blame.
 - a. The disciples place themselves in the role of _____.
 - b. The believer must _____ to avoid judging the lives of the suffering.
2. Jesus _____ blame.
 - i) Jesus shifts the discussion from blame to _____.
 - ii) The believer must _____ to the leading of the Lord in assisting the suffering.
- b) The Father is _____.
 - i) The Father is glorified through Christ and the _____.
- c) The believer must _____ to accept the work of the glorified Christ in their life.

Remember:

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:16-17 ESV)

Reflect:

Part of every misery is, so to speak, the misery's shadow or reflection: the fact that you don't merely suffer but have to keep on thinking about the fact that you suffer. I not only live each endless day in grief, but live each day thinking about living each day in grief. (C. S. Lewis)

Seek:

- 1) In the New Testament era the concept of illness and suffering in connection to sin was a commonly held belief. The best example of this is found in the Old Testament story of Job. Have you ever read Job's story? What did you walk away with from what you read?

- 2) Maybe you heard someone ask the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people"? Maybe you have asked it yourself. Does Jesus handle this question in our passage?

Share:

- 1) We've all been there at one time or another; that period of tribulation or suffering. Try to recall the last time it happened. How did the Lord bring you through? How did you give Him the glory?

Serve:

- 1) Who do you know that is hurting? Do they seem to find themselves racked with guilt? How can the Lord use you to help bring them through?

Prayer:

Pray together, in complete sentence prayers, and thank the Lord for all those times He has brought you periods of suffering. Thank Him for the times you have seen Him at work, and for the times when you didn't.