

Part 2
WHERE IS
GOD
WHEN
I AM
HURTING?



Where is God When I am Hurting

John 9:1-12

"Why is there so much pain in the world?" is the most frequently asked question ever! We hate it when we, or those we love, are in pain. Today we see Jesus confront a hurting world.

Where is God When I am Hurting

John 9:1-12

Today we see Jesus confront a hurting world. As we do, consider these words by Elizabeth Elliot (whose husband was murdered): "If God is in charge and loves us, then whatever is given is subject to His control and is meant ultimately for our joy."

1.Suffering Provokes Questions (vv. 1-2)

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How can a loving God allow suffering to exist?

Perception: pain is God's one mistake—Philip
Yancey

Asaph's struggle—Psalm 73:2

2.Suffering Defies Explanations (vv. 2-3)

This man is a miracle waiting to happen!

God may allow suffering to affect a greater
purpose

Suffering will equip you – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Suffering will strengthen your faith—2

Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:2-3

2.Suffering Defies Explanations (vv. 2-3)

Suffering will correct you—

Hebrews 12:5; Psalm 119:6-7

"(Pain) removes the veil; it plants the flag of truth within the fortress of a rebel soul“

C.S. Lewis

3.Suffering Brings Obligations (vv. 4-7)

Jesus was sensitive

Jesus saw Him

We need to guard against compassion fatigue

3.Suffering Brings Obligations (vv. 4-7)

Jesus was practical

Must work, not involved in the debate

We must work, time is coming when we cannot

Jesus was urgent

Limited time to serve the Lord

3.Suffering Brings Obligations (vv. 4-7)

There is a loving, all knowing, all powerful God, we acknowledge massive evil; therefore, we know Jesus will return to earth , judge, and make all bad things right. Until He does I will help alleviate suffering and pain and thus represent Him to a suffering world.

3.Suffering Brings Obligations (vv. 4-7)

Jesus was personal

Touched the blind man

Ministered to individuals, demonstrated love

3.Suffering Brings Obligations (vv. 4-7)

Application

Are you willing to embrace suffering if it drives you to God?

Are you willing to alleviate suffering if it drives others to God?

4.Suffering Challenges Expectations (vv. 8-12)

The healing was simple and understated

Never let your expectations limit God

Psalm 78:41; Mark 6:5

4.Suffering Challenges Expectations (vv. 8-12)

Like the blind man, you were once blinded by sin and unable to see until the Lord opened your spiritual eyes – 2 Corinthians 4:4

Physical healing is temporary

Spiritual healing 2 Corinthians 5:17