

**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.

# 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)

Jesus sees

Disciples ask

Human suffering the number one roadblock to  
faith in God

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

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)

Disciples' explanation: sin "Who sinned?"

Theology of prenatal sin

Hellenistic Jews may have embraced Greek  
philosophy of pre-existent soul

His parents (twisted Exodus 20:5)

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

Sometimes suffering is a direct result of sin or errant thinking or activity (i.e. a child born of promiscuous parents, an alcoholic, etc.)

False theology: prosperity doctrine

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

Even believers often tie suffering to something  
they did

Don't automatically assume suffering is due to  
something someone did

Job



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

Friends blamed him

God called him the most righteous

Biblical God is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, but massive evil exists; therefore, the biblical God cannot exist

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

"So much" evil presupposes a notion of ultimate  
good

"If the universe is so bad...how on earth did  
human beings ever come to attribute it to the  
activity of a wise and good Creator?"

C.S. Lewis

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

Deist view: there is a god, he'd like to help, but  
he can't

Process theology-god is in the process of  
becoming a better god

You cannot always equate sin and suffering  
directly

## 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