

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

SINS & SUFFERING

John 9:1-4 & other Scriptures

INTRODUCTION – Review & a Question

Last week we began a series on what God's Word says about suffering. Going back to the beginning, to Adam, we saw how his sin – his Fall – brought suffering & death to him and to all his descendants.

Because of Adam's sin & the judgment of God on Him & His descendants, we all sin and suffer.

In the most general sense, suffering in this life is the result of sin & of God's holy & just response to sin – Adam's, yours, mine.

QUESTION:

Does this mean that every time you get sick, or something breaks, or bad things happen, God is specifically punishing you for some specific sin?

1. SUFFERING IS NOT ALWAYS DUE TO SOME PARTICULAR SIN OR SINS.

The Man Born Blind – for the Glory of God (John 9:1-4)

The disciples question / bad theology.

Jesus' answer (truth).

With regard to suffering people, how can **we** walk in Jesus' light, & do the works of God?

Problems with the disciples' bad thinking.

We are more sinful than we know & God is far more gracious!

Consider Job (briefly today).

Jesus & Peter (and the rest of the N.T.) teach us that suffering may well be the consequence of doing right for His sake.

2. BUT WE MUST CONSIDER OTHER SIDE OF THE TRUTH: PARTICULAR SINS & PATTERNS OF SIN

MAY & DO OFTEN BRING SUFFERING INTO OUR LIVES.

1 Peter 2:20 again – the 1st half of the verse.

We DO make sinful choices and commit sinful acts that bring suffering on ourselves and those around us.

The suffering may be directly caused by our sin.

Or God may providentially chasten us due to it.

Examples.

Particular sins need to be repented of particularly if we seek God's mercy in forgiveness & deliverance.

God's forgiving & sanctifying grace may not restore what sin broke – the suffering may continue in this life.

But our true hope is the return of Christ & the glory of our resurrection – THEN God will wipe away ALL tears, no more death or crying.