

## An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
    - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
    - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
    - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
    - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
    - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
    - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

### A Theology of Sin & Suffering

*Gospel of John, Part XXXI*

John 9:1-12

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#### I. The Light of the World (cf. Is 42:6f)

#### II. A Man Born Blind

A. Observation & Discussion (1-5)

B. Healing (6-7)

C. Observation & Discussion (8-12)

#### III. A Theology of Sin & Suffering

A. All suffering is a result of our corporate sin/guilt (cf. Rom 5:12)

B. Some suffering is a result of personal sin/guilt (cf. Lev 26:14ff; Num 12; Dt 28:15ff; 2 Sam 12:14; Ps 89:30-32; Jn 5:14)

C. Some suffering is not a result of personal sin/guilt (cf. Job 1-2; 2 Cor 12:7)

Why does it seem to be a constant temptation for the people of God to think that all suffering is a result of personal sin/guilt? I think that we are often motivated by our fear of suffering. We are trying to come up with some way to avoid suffering and so we associate it with personal sin. If all suffering in this life is a direct consequence of personal sin, then perhaps, if we avoid personal sin, we can escape great suffering. If we just obey God, then He will keep us from suffering. But suffering is inevitable in this fallen world. As Eliphaz reminded Job, "*Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward*" (Job 5:7).

#### IV. Dealing with Personal Suffering

##### A. Acknowledge the justice and rectitude of Almighty God (Job 1:21)

First, acknowledge that we are all guilty in the sight of God and that no suffering comes upon us as human beings unjustly. This is what Job does. *“The Lord gives; the Lord takes away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord”* (1:21).

We do not live in a chaotic and meaningless world. The afflictions that we face are not random or gratuitous. God rules over all things and so all things do His sovereign will. Therefore, God has some purpose even in our suffering. We may not always know that purpose, but the purpose exists all the same. Jesus assures us, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows”* (Mt 10:29-31).

##### B. Ask God to reveal if there is personal sin involved (cf. Is 9:13)

Second, ask God to reveal if there is personal sin involved in your suffering. *Sometimes suffering is a result of personal sin / guilt.* Sometimes we bring troubles upon ourselves and the reason that we are facing these troubles is because God is summoning us to repent.

##### C. Turn to Jesus for light in your darkness

Finally, turn to Jesus for light in your suffering / darkness.

1. In all our suffering, Jesus’ compassion reminds us that God has some purpose in our suffering; it is not random or accidental.
2. When suffering because of personal sin/guilt, Jesus’ death and resurrection assure us that we can be forgiven and know that even that suffering is for our blessing and not for our judgment.
3. When suffering innocently, Jesus’ death and resurrection remind us that He too suffered innocently, and that God will always vindicate His own even if they suffer for a time in this life.

#### V. Conclusion

