

John 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

Analysis

'Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.' Jesus denies the sin-suffering causation the disciples assumed. This man's blindness wasn't punishment but opportunity—for God's works to be displayed. Suffering can have purpose beyond punishment. God uses difficulties for His glory. This reframes suffering from divine punishment to divine platform.

Historical Context

This doesn't deny the man was a sinner (all are) but denies his blindness was specific punishment. The purpose clause ('that... should be made manifest') shows God using suffering for glory. Paul's 'thorn' served similar purpose (2 Corinthians 12:9). This transforms suffering into opportunity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does reframing suffering as opportunity rather than punishment change our response?
2. What 'works of God' might be manifested through suffering in your life?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς οὔτε οὗτος ἤμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ
answered G3588 Jesus Neither this man hath Neither G3588
G611 G2424 G3777 G3778 G264 G3777

γονεῖς αὐτῷ ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ
parents him but that should be made manifest G3588 the works G3588
G1118 G846 G235 G2443 G5319 G2041

θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ¹
of God in him
G2316 G1722 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 11:4 (References Jesus): When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

John 11:40 (References Jesus): Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Job 42:7 (Parallel theme): And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

