

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	ἥμαρτεν	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	αὐτῷ					
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.

