

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Miracle Man” (pt. 7) – 6/29/2014

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Bottom Line: Jesus is involved in and in control of our suffering.

INTRODUCTION: How do you typically react to suffering, pain, and affliction? One thing is for certain, we cannot avoid it. Sooner or later, suffering or pain will affect every one of us. People deal with it differently. One of the greatest joys as a Christian is knowing that Jesus will one day put an end to it all and even as we now endure suffering, he is able to use it for good.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 9:1-12

What is the cause of affliction in life?

- Ourselves, other people, and the world (natural disasters, Satan).
- It is important to know that despite the cause of the suffering, God is working in his children's lives for good purposes. We can trust in that even though we may not know how God is developing or preparing us. He is always good and faithful so we place our trust not in our circumstances but in him.

What about the cause of affliction for this blind man?

- We are told that no one sinned to cause this man's blindness. He lived in a broken world and God allowed this to happen so that he could work for his glory in this man's life.

Read John 9:13-41

What are the works of God in the blind man's life?

- Grace: Jesus heals this man
- Faith: He comes to know and trust Jesus.
- Obedience: He keeps telling his story even under persecution.
- God's glory: He is quick to point to Jesus and give him credit.

How significant is it that the bible says that the man worshipped Jesus?

- Please do not read over this part of the story. Given the culture, people knew the 10 commandments and knew that they should only worship one God, the true God. Yet this man worships Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

What are some other works of God in suffering?

- Grace: our suffering can be the way God displays his healing
- Repentance: If you suffer because of your sinful choices, repent
- Forgiveness: God can teach us forgiveness of others
- Faith: God weans us from self-reliance
- Joy: God leads to unshakeable joy in him vs situational happiness
- Obedience: God can teach us deep obedience
- Glory: our suffering can be a way to shine a light on God, not us.

What does it mean for God to be in control and involved in our suffering?

- We are essentially saying that God is sovereign. If he were not in control then he would not be all-powerful. If he were not involved then he would not be caring. Since he is both, we have to ask the question, "Then why is there suffering at all?" The answer is that God did not cause these things. We did. However, God allows it to happen but uses it to eventually bring about good. We are not to know why things happen in every situation; only that God is in control and is deeply involved. Our response is to be trust.

How comforting is it that God is in control and involved?

- Suffering is a reality and humanity caused it when we rebelled. We can be thankful that God has been and is continuing to work to bring redemption to this world through the gospel. He really does care! One day, he will completely do away with all pain and suffering on the new earth. There will be no more brokenness, only perfect peace.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Do you tend to lean toward God or away from God in affliction?

Where are you in how you see Jesus (man, prophet, from God, Lord)?

What are the works of God you have seen in your own affliction?