

## **Sept 19 - John 9 "The Light Brings Sight to the Blind, and Blindness to the Sighted"**

1. One of our most common responses to suffering is to ask an agonizing question. Why? Why is this happening to me – to us? Why do you think we ask such a question? What are some of the answers we give in response to that question?

### **Read John 9**

2. (2) From their question it appears that the disciples are operating out of a moralistic response to the question why. When suffering hits it is punishment for sin. What is Jesus' response to this mindset and why is it important that we hear him?
3. (3-4) Instead of trying to find an answer to the question why what does Jesus invite his disciples (us) to consider when we encounter suffering?
4. As you reflect on the story what are the works of God that are displayed in the blind man?

### **Read Isaiah 35**

5. In the feast of shelters the high priest would take water from the pool of Siloam and pour it out over the altar. This would point to the messianic promise that when messiah comes a river of living water would flow out from the temple bringing new life wherever it flowed. The healing of the man born blind is illustrative of the fullness of the work of God reflected on in this text. How does Isaiah 35 fill out what the works of God are?
6. The way that Jesus heals the man born blind flagrantly violates the pharisaical customs around Sabbath, stirring them up to hot anger. This has the effect of exposing the darkness of their way of being as they rule keep over people keep, honour religious practice over mercy, and use their power for their own sake rather than those they serve. What do we learn here about the darkness of this way of being? How is shining light into darkness also a work of God?
7. How would it change us if in the midst of suffering instead of searching for an answer to the why we instead primarily considered – what is the work of God here in this situation, and how can we participate in it?