

Hard Questions: Human Suffering

John 9; Job; Luke 13

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. God allows suffering; In the midst of suffering and heart ache God has a purpose. (John 9:3)
2. The disciples focus was backward, analyzing how the blind man came to suffer, but Jesus' concern was forward – 'putting God on display' is the reason for suffering. (John 9:3)
3. The major challenge when we walk through struggles is to ask, 'why me?'
4. Our natural default mode as humans is to ask God to explain His rationale which is the issue that leaves people questioning the possibility of God being a 'loving' God. (Job 40:6-8)
5. As far as your own life is concerned; let the refining process do its work. Coming out on the other side can refine you. God will use it, trust Him! (James 1:2-3)
6. 4 Biblical realities of various trials:
 - Sometimes suffering is because of sin (Numbers 12:10-12)
 - Sometimes suffering is for chastening (Hebrews 12:5-12)
 - Sometimes suffering is for strengthening (1 Peter 5:10)
 - Sometimes suffering is for greater opportunity to reveal God
7. We, like Job, vastly fail to comprehend the greatness of God. (Job 38-42)
8. Common view in the 1st century is disaster and suffering are punishment for sin.
9. The fact that God is not in this moment bringing an end to all things here and now does not mean He approves of what sinners are doing; it means that God is merciful in patience. (Ephesians 2:4-5, Isaiah 55:6)
10. God would be condemned for us to be justified. We humans are so broken, the only way to make all things new is for God the Son to become Jesus the man and be condemned for all humanity. (Job 40:8)

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