

“Neither this man nor his parents
sinned, but that the works of God
should be revealed in him.”
– John 9:3

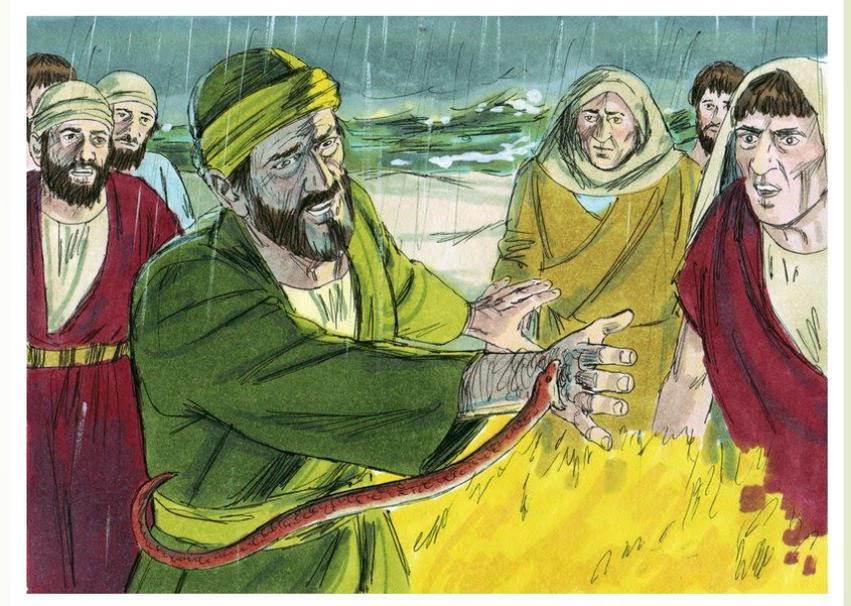


Highlights

- “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” (Jn. 9:3)
- We will address two points:
 1. Suffering and Sin
 2. How are the works of God revealed in us?

Suffering as a result of sin

- The Jews and many others believed that suffering was a result of a sin or crime committed.
- EX: People on the Island of Malta
 - “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” (Acts 28:4)



Misunderstandings Regarding Suffering

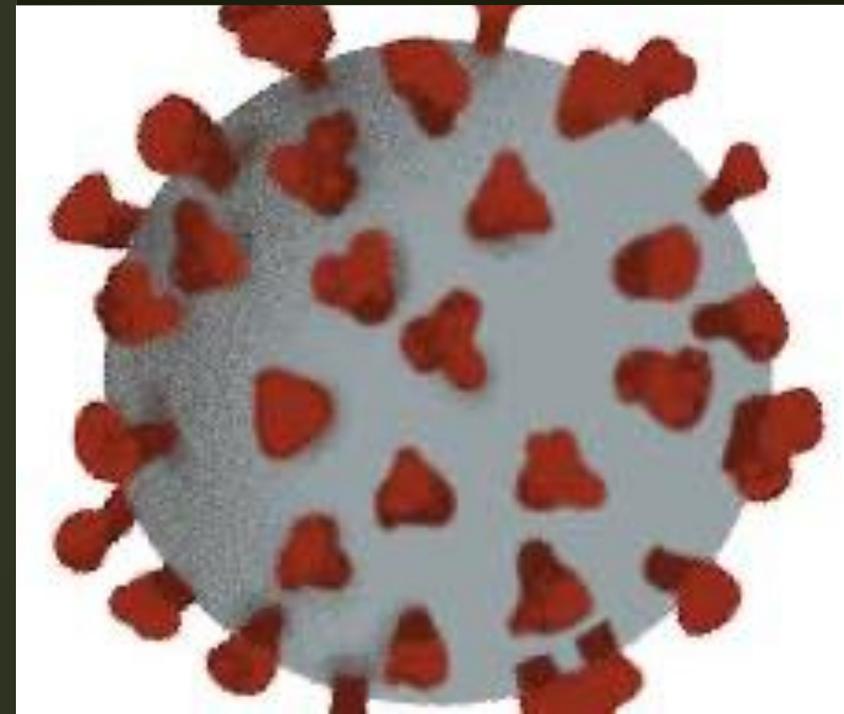
1. God punished our sins by inflicting us with sufferings

- Does God want to save us or punish us?
- “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
(2 Cor. 12:9)

Misunderstandings Regarding Suffering

2. Why is hardship perceived as evil?

- ▶ Do we believe that success and wealth are blessings? And any hardship is evil?
- ▶ EX: COVID
- ▶ *“Sin alone is an evil, but blindness is not an evil.”* (St. John Chrysostom)
- ▶ Story about HH Pope Kyrillos VI





Misunderstandings Regarding Suffering

3. God brings suffering to those whom He loves to purify them

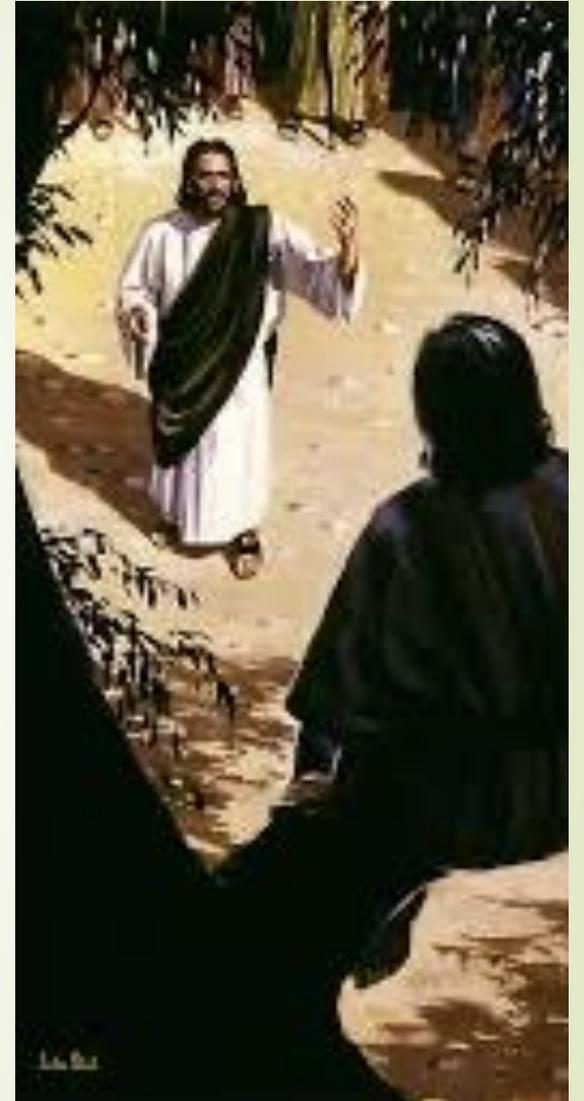
- Does God bring suffering or relieve it?
- Suffering is a product of corrupt humanity
- The ones who bear suffering faithfully are the ones who are favored by God.
- God is not the cause of our suffering



How are the
works of God
revealed?

1. A Ready Heart

- EX: Zacchaeus
- EX: St. Anthony the Great
- One's heart must:
 - Be honest and true to himself
 - Have a desire for God



2. Obedience without understanding

- ▶ “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (Jn. 9:7)



“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” (Jn. 9:15)

3. Experience

He grew in knowledge
– reason and
experience

4. Enduring moments of abandonment

His parents

His Healer