

SUFFERING AND SKEPTICS

John 9

PHILOSOPHY OF SUFFERING

John 9:1-2 – As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Suffering for personal or family sin

Suffering for human error or malfeasance

Suffering due to genetic causes

Suffering for no known cause

Suffering in a fallen world

ANOTHER OPTION

John 9:3-5 – “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

UNIQUE PROCEDURE

John 9:6-7 – Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

BLINDNESS OF THE HEART

John 9:25 – “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Neighbors

Parents

Religious Leaders

VISION OF FAITH

John 9:35-38

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

“You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

CAR TALK:

What are some of the reasons you have employed to explain human suffering? How effective were they?

Describe a personal experience when your suffering resulted in a deeper faith in God?