

(in)VISIBLE MADE VISIBLE

John 9:1-41

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, John, blind, disciples, sin, man, parents, born blind, works of God, work, sent, day, night, the world, I AM, the light of the world, spit, mud, saliva, anointed, eyes, pool of Siloam, went, washed, seeing, beggar, Pharisees, Sabbath, sinner, prophet, son, Jews, confess, Christ, synagogue, glory, one thing, reviled, Moses, worshiper, cast out, believe, Son of Man, Lord, judgment, guilt

Introduction

Darkness is all he had ever known. It was his world. There was no light. No color. The sunrise was only a feeling on his skin. This man has his space invaded by disciples who are more interested in theological speculation than mercy. They query Jesus about whose sin caused this blindness. These disciples could only see suffering and there was no concept of God's glory on display through suffering. Jesus, the sent one, sends the man to wash in the pool of Siloam after making a mud compress for his eyes. The man obeys and the light of the world gave light to the man in darkness.

Confusion and conflict ensue. Neighbors bring him to the Pharisees. Parents won't stand up for him out of fear. He tells them everything he knows about Jesus and what he did, but it's not good enough. They are convinced he is not from God and a sinner. The hostility intensifies but the man who was formerly blind can see through the pretense and hypocrisy. By the time the dust settles, he is a pariah, cast out of the synagogue. Jesus comes to him again, calls him to believe, and accepts his worship. At one time, everything was darkness but now everything is light and life—(in)VISIBLE MADE VISIBLE.

Outline

Theological speculation about suffering should be handled with care (vv. 2-3).

God's glory was magnified through voluntary suffering (v. 4).

Jesus was sent because our natural habitat is darkness (v. 5).

Transformed lives won't stay hidden under bushels (vv. 8-11).

Conflict is inevitable when you follow Jesus (v. 16).

You don't have to know everything about Jesus to follow him (v. 25).

It's better to be cast out with Jesus than to be kept in with liars and murderers (v. 34).

Closing your eyes when you're blind doesn't change the darkness (vv. 40-41).

Application

Do you believe that Jesus sees you in your suffering?

What is your relationship with the darkness?

Does your guilt remain?

Questions

1. How do you explain suffering in the world to others? How should Christians think about suffering? How is suffering connected to sin?
2. Share a time when God used suffering to grow you.
3. What impact does fear have on our witness and evangelism?
4. Read Daniel 7:13-14. Why do you think Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man so often?
5. Why does the wrong conclusion about Jesus lead to death?