

# How the World Works

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John 9:1-12

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## A Stark Contrast

- Chp 8 - Jesus rejected and they tried to stone him<sup>8:59</sup>
- Jesus was the SENT One<sup>8:12,16,18,26,42</sup>; Man told to wash in pool meaning sent
- Though Jesus rejected by 'the well' He shows mercy to the blind<sup>Mt9:12-13</sup>
- Being born blind – difficult handicap

## Behind a Frowning Providence

- Hymn: *God Moves in Mysterious Ways*, William Cowper - much depression  
*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense but trust Him for His grace;*  
*Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face*
- God often uses difficult circumstances to show forth His glory

## A Man With Little Hope

- Man's blindness > picture of our spiritual blindness
- Blind men can easily walk into danger<sup>Rm14:10-12;2Cor5:10</sup>
- OT - no records of blind men healed<sup>9:32</sup>; Man had little hope for cure
- But God promised Messiah<sup>Isaiah35:4-6;42:1-9;Psa146:3,6-7</sup> who opens blind eyes!
- Like the blind man born blind our situation seems hopeless spiritually!

## The Elephant in the Room Question

- Who sinned? Can we ask that question? Psalmist<sup>10:1;13:1-2,etc</sup> does
- Just ask humbly and not with sense of entitlement - look to Job
- Error of suffering comes from bad done - form of Karma
- Error of suffering results from specific sins of self or parents<sup>Ex20:5;Ezek18:20</sup>
- Error of every sin gets God's immediate wrath - look at Job's friends
- Jesus' answer - *that the works of God might be displayed in him...*
- Creation is cursed<sup>Rm8:21</sup> since Fall. Suffering warns us to turn to God
- God is conducting a great orchestra - not all parts are beautiful alone
- Every "frowning providence" should lead us to look to God's smiling face
- God has a clear plan for all of history<sup>Rm8:28-29</sup>
- John Piper "God is always doing 10K things in your life and you may be aware of 3 of them"

## A Smiling Face

- Jesus rejected by Pharisees<sup>8</sup> but shows mercy to a man who never sought
- Doesn't ignore the man; makes mud sends him to wash in pool of Siloam
- In faith the man obeyed: Faith first; Obedience followed
- His obedience allowed him to see the face of his Savior<sup>9:37-38!</sup>

## The Goodness of God

- Jesus gave the man eyes to see
- Jesus was SENT<sup>8:16,18,26,29,42</sup> to bring light to the world<sup>8:12</sup>
- Religious leaders rejected Jesus and delivered Jesus to be crucified...
- But their hatred produced God's smiling face > Cross of Jesus<sup>Gal3:13</sup>
- All part of God's perfect plan from the beginning<sup>Gen3:15</sup>
- Forbidden chapter: Isaiah 53:4-6 points to God's perfect plan of how what appears to be His frowning providence allows us to see God's smiling face!
- The Great Exchange of the Cross: 2 Corinthians 5:21
- So let us never judge the Lord by our feeble sense but by HIS Word!