

We are not so different from the people who went before us. A man born blind, “why this Lord”? We’ve the best medical technology available; when we hear the word “cancer” “disease.” “Why are you letting this happen Lord?” Same question in the Gospel asked about a man born blind.

“What did I do to deserve this?” “Who sinned?” That somebody sinned is a safe enough answer. Though we know we’ve all sinned, fallen short of the glory of God, we still wonder if you can tie the ills of life to a specific wrong; blame on it on something or someone.

A great religion in our society, influences even us is -Progressiveness. Even Christians have come to regard the ills of this world as the greatest problems we face. We’re tempted to believe everything that is wrong can be fixed with more money, more medicine, more technology, more resources. -Not that it’s wrong to progress, help eliminate suffering and disease, but the real problem is sin. It’s a broken creation that we can’t cure sin or fix it; anymore than we can save a planet.

**That the works of God might be displayed**, Jesus is breaking through in His creation to restore it. As He worked the dirt, mud in Garden and with His hands formed Adam, Eve. Note the sight words, in Genesis, **God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the SIGHT and good for food... when the women SAW the tree was good for food, it was a delight to the EYES**, they ate it **then the EYE of both were opened**. Blindness cured is the sign of the Christ from the Old Testament. Even the Pharisee knew this. No one has ever been cured of blindness until now. To address the curse of sin from the Garden. He works in mud again and waters to heal. That all may truly see in Him, the Christ.

**Who sinned Jesus?** Sadly, we often see suffering, affliction as a sign God’s unhappy, punishing us. Not even in the Garden of Eden was suffering meant for our punishment. God cursed the ground allowing thorns and thistles to grow, making it difficult for man to provide for his family, to keep us humble; to keep us looking to God alone for life and for every good thing. God did not multiply pain in childbirth because He was upset at Eve and wanted all women to suffer as a result. It was to be a painful reminder that God brings good out of evil; though we are undeserving sinners, He would bring forth His Son to be our Savior; renews His creation thru the very pain of childbirth and suffering.

Some suffer more than others for reasons God alone knows; but no one has it easy, more than that, we have a Savior who suffered for us. **That the works of God might be displayed in you**, as it was also for the blind man.

One of our members teaches art classes. I haven’t been overly impressed with her artwork. But I know teaching is a tough job. She teaches art to children. Even more, these children she teaches art to, are blind. They’re enthusiastic to make art. One thing heart-wrenching is the blind children use sight words. Sight words applied to themselves and others. “Hey look at this” “do you see this?” “does this look good?” It proves a point that Jesus also makes. Sight is not merely of the eye, but of the heart. Of faith. To see properly is to confess the works of God in you.

To answer life’s questions, impossible without a suffering savior, His eternal kingdom. You look to the eternal, rather than the temporal to see. If there’s no eternal perspective, no Christ, how meaningless all of life becomes. But only we can answer the ‘whys’ to life. Only be answered in the Christ. You see it in Scripture also here too, “Why?” **That the works of God may be displayed. The works of Him, the Father who sent Me.** Why does God allow

suffering, why disease, why evil. How can any parent cope when a 2 year old has cancer, how can you deal with disease, Why does God allow so much wrong to happen, why even blind children? Simply, that God can work a greater good for you and His people. That's the answer to every why. **That the works of God displayed.** Why bad things? He always works a greater good, to draw you, others closer to Him, to show you more of His works and love. Always. The hard work believing it. Trusting in His good and gracious will, regardless of your lot in life.

One of the theological principles of stained glass. No light, no beauty, black at night. Even daytime, look from outside the church, there's no beauty to behold, You must 'in' the church to see true beauty. The same for all life and works of His kingdom. In the church, in Christ, we see things differently in the world. To truly see who He is, what He has done, and how we gets the goods of the cross. To see by faith, answers to life's questions. **That the works of God might be displayed.**

**For judgment, I came into the world that those who do not see, may see.** Jesus came to be judged in your place. Given your punishment, suffers hell's fury that you be forgiven, healed with eyes of faith for eternity.

Jesus brings His kingdom, gives miracles by means - spitting, making mud, applying it to eyes. His miracles by means -that people rejected. The Pharisees refused to see it. Many blind today, refuse to see His kingdom. Jesus still heals by means of water, bread, wine, with His words that always are powerful, always do what He says it does. You may not have a physically healing now, like the blind man, but you will have it and all things in His kingdom. You have even greater healing of sin. **That the works of God might be displayed in you.** Every Sunday here people are healed, sinners forgiven; the sick see the Great Physician, for this is why He came, why you are here. The radiant work of God - in a man born blind; in people like you, born spiritually blind, to see your Christ, His kingdom now and evermore.