

John 9:1-7

### 3 Lessons on Suffering

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

#### 1. God reigns over all suffering

- God works all things according to the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11)
- Just because you can't think of a good reason for evil and suffering doesn't mean there isn't one.
- You can't assume that you know exactly how and when God should wield His power against evil and suffering.
- The debate on evil and suffering is settled by the incarnation of Christ.

#### 2. God does not waste our suffering

The man's healing will ultimately demonstrate:

- That Jesus is God, the Son, sent from the Father.
- God's compassion and power toward human suffering.
- That is God over men, not a man under man's authority.
- See also John 11:4

The Scriptural witness:

- Romans 8:20-21
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- James 1:3
- Romans 5:15

God is at work in all our suffering to do things that we will thank him and praise Him for.

### **3. God proves His wisdom in our suffering**

Q. Why mud on the eyes?

A. It's not supposed to make "worldly" sense.

**CITE: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The greatest occasion of suffering was the greatest work of God so that we can have the greatest boast.

#### **Application:**

We must speak to ourselves in suffering rather than listen to ourselves.

- Tell yourself about the ultimate reason for our suffering
- Tell yourself that suffering is not just about me (2 Corinthians 1)

Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?  
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.  
If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,  
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;  
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,  
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.  
The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;  
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;  
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,  
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.