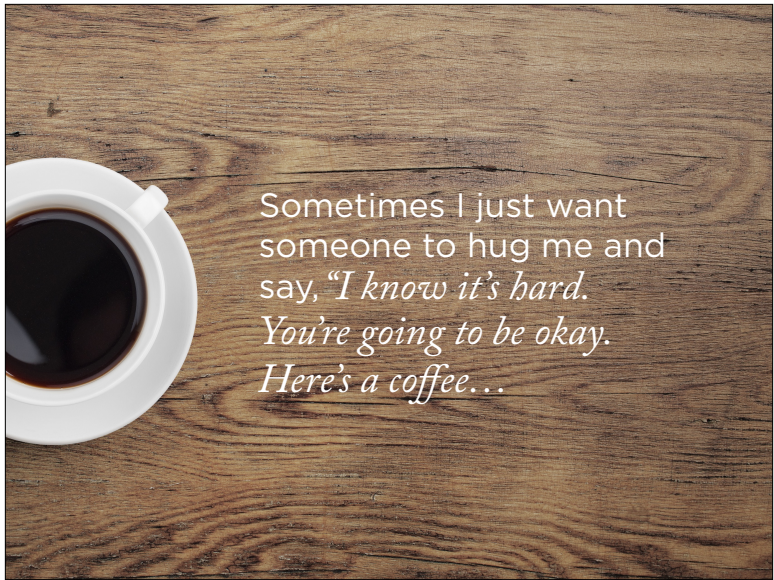


# The Gospel of John

PART 16  
John 9—The Blame Game



Sometimes I just want  
someone to hug me and  
say, *"I know it's hard.  
You're going to be okay.  
Here's a coffee..."*

Why is it we believe in some things  
without understanding everything about  
them, but with other things we feel like  
we need a complete explanation?

# *the* PROBLEM *of* SUFFERING

"The fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the single greatest challenge to the Christian faith, and has been in every generation. Its distribution and degree appear to be entirely random and therefore unfair."

NICKY GUMBLE

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## MAIN POINT

Will we spend our lives  
finding **fault**  
*or*  
finding **faith**?

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## A CHOICE TO MAKE

Will I endure the discomfort and uncertainty of my limited understanding long enough to pursue what is **TRUE**?

*or*

...retreat to the shadows of **what I know, like, prefer, makes me comfortable, makes me feel powerful**, even if it's not true?

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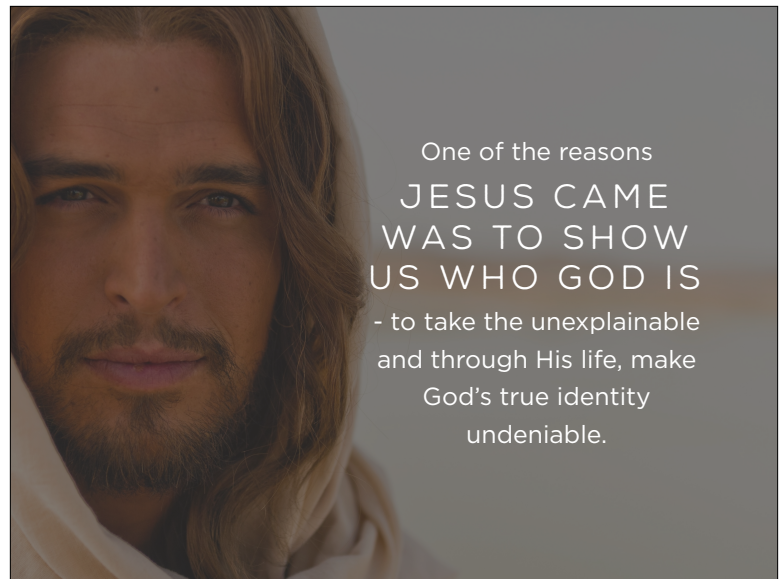
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One of the reasons  
JESUS CAME  
WAS TO SHOW  
US WHO GOD IS  
- to take the unexplainable  
and through His life, make  
God's true identity  
undeniable.

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#### JOHN 9

<sup>1</sup> *“As he (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth.*

<sup>2</sup> *His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

<sup>3</sup> *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”*

#### THE MESSAGE

*“You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do.”*

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*“For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.”*

JOHN 9:5 (MSG)

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JOHN 9:6-7

*"After saying 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.*

JOHN 9:8-9

*His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him. But he himself insisted, "I am the man."*

PROBLEM

When we focus on the unexplainable rather than the undeniable, there will never be enough information to satisfy us.

*They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.*

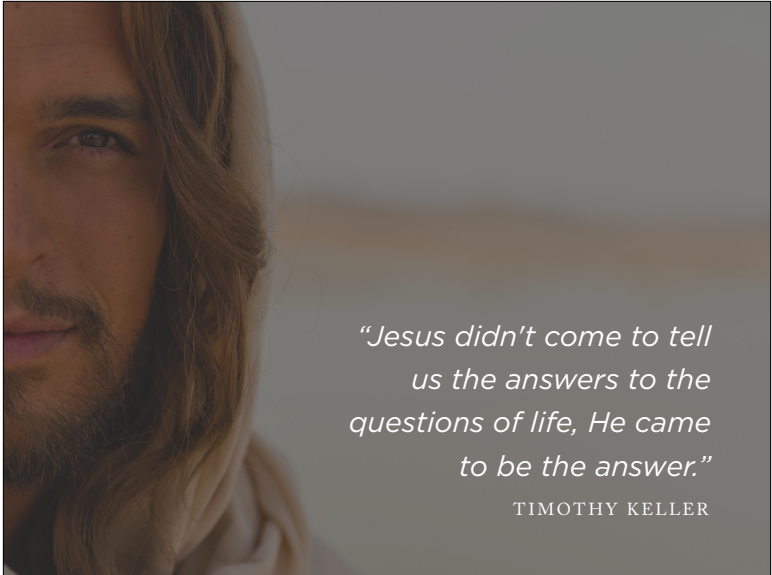
JOHN 9:13-14

*Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."*

*Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath."*

*Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.*

JOHN 9:15-17



*"Jesus didn't come to tell us the answers to the questions of life, He came to be the answer."*

TIMOTHY KELLER

*A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."*

JOHN 9:24

*He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"*

JOHN 9:25

*Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"*

*He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen..."*

JOHN 9:26-27

*Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."*

JOHN 9:28-29

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## HOW FAITH RESPONDS to FAULT-FINDING

*The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."*

JOHN 9:30-33

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## FAULT-FINDING is a LOSING strategy

*"To this they replied, 'you were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!' and they threw him out."*

JOHN 9:34

**"In the realm of the blind,  
the man with one eye is king."**

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*Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

JOHN 9:35

"The Jews cast him out of the Temple;  
the Lord of the Temple found him."

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*"Who is he, sir?" the man asked.*

*"Tell me so that I may believe in him."*

JOHN 9:36

*Jesus said, "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."*

JOHN 9:37-38



*“God’s got all eternity to  
make it up to me.”*

Are you going to spend your  
life trying to **find fault**

**or**

...spend your life having  
**found faith**...in Jesus Christ?

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