



FAMILY OF CHAMPIONS
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
WINNING, TRAINING & SENDING - TESTIFYING TO THE EXTRAVAGANT GRACE OF GOD

House Fellowship BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

FOLLOWING JESUS

HOW TO RESPOND IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING!

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INTRODUCTION

As we go through the story of God healing the blind man, we might tend to relate with the blind man simply because we have been equally experienced suffering. But we would like to study the text to see how Jesus behaves in the midst of suffering and what He tells His disciples to focus on and do during suffering.

Remember we are in the series of following Jesus, learning from Him and discovering His reaction in difficult situations.

- ✓ *What should be our response in the midst of suffering, either when we or people around us are suffering?*

Examine yourself as we go through this study, are you like Jesus or the disciples!



Key Scripture:
John 9:1-12

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**”

³ “**Neither this man nor his parents sinned,**” said Jesus, “**but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**”⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “**I am the man.**”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

John 9:1-12

SUFFERING EXISTS

In the verse 1, Jesus walked by and encountered a man that was suffering, he was born blind.

1. Bad things happen to bad people

*¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. **Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.**”*

John 5:14

A man that been paralyzed for 38 years was healed by Jesus. And when he was healed, we went around the place and Jesus was also going round and met him at the temple. He said, “Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you”

✓ *Why did Jesus say this?*

Jesus is saying that sin can bring bad things, worse things even. So, it is true that sin brings suffering and the bible affirms it.

*Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.** ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.**”*

Luke 13:1-5

Pilate killed some of the Galileans and mixed their blood with the sacrifice. Jesus is giving two scenarios of suffering; one caused by Pilate and the second, a nature disaster.

Jesus is trying to make a link between suffering and sin. When bad things come, we like to blame others and ask “Why me?”

✓ *Why do you find it easy to point out your and other people’s sin?*

The people were trying to tell Jesus that this was all Pilates fault

✓ *But what is Jesus concentrating on?*

He looked not at the sin of Pilate but rather used this opportunity to talk about repentance, for all have sinned, even they that were blaming Pilate.

2. Bad things happen to good people too (Test of faith)

A perfect example is Job, he was righteous and pure that God praised him. But when you read through the book of Job you will see that bad things happen to good people too.

✓ *How does it make you feel that bad things happen to good people?*

Job was a good man who experienced suffering in order to test his faith/faithfulness in God.

⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?

Luke 13:4

²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

1 Peter 2:20

Even the gospels (New Testament), we see that good people also suffered

✓ *What good were you doing that you suffered for?*

Tragedy is not always a sign of God's judgement

THE MYSTERY OF WHY PEOPLE SUFFER?

A mystery is something that we know partly and but do not know fully. To really say where suffering comes from is a mystery, we do not know all, but what we know is suffering can come from sin and so that God be revealed in you. Jesus stepped into a world with so much suffering and one day as walking, met a suffering man: this man had been blind from birth and the disciples thought that he was suffering as punishment for either his own or his family's sin. Jesus said this is not an issue of sin but it is so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

It's like God saying, you failed an exam so that (not 'Because') His work might be revealed in you. You fell sick, you are broke, your suffering, is so that He be revealed in you.

✓ *Does this make sense to you?*

✓ *What have you always thought is the cause of suffering?*

Some may find it weird that this man is blind and Jesus is busy mixing saliva and dirt to put on his eyes. But miraculously, he could see again.

The people who knew him, asked if it was he that was blind from birth, he replied, "I am the one." You will also one day say I am the one, after Jesus changes your story when the people who knew your old ways meet you.

➤ This world is filled with so much distress, sickness and deprivation. But not all suffering comes because one sinned.

➤ Jesus did not say that this man had not sinned, but he denies that this man's suffering is connected to his sin.

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned

Romans 5:12

1. To glorify God

Remember as Christians we have been called to suffering (It's in the Christianity package) for the sake of the gospel in order that God be glorified.

2. Enemy's attack

Others experience suffering because the enemy is attacking their lives.

✓ *Now going back to the verse 2 of our main text, whose fault was it that this man is blind?*

We do not know all, but from the examples we have seen, He does not focus on the why, because He is the solution, He wants us to avoid the speculation. He has called to be the solutions, to the light and the salt of the earth.

THREE THINGS GOD WANTS US TO DO IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

God wants us to have a certain mindset when you see people suffering!

1. Do not ask the “who sinned” question.

Playing the blame game. We ask ‘who’ and ‘why’.

When your life is not going well, you have someone in mind who is the cause of it and a reason as to why you are suffering. Do not concentrate on these two questions

2. He wanted you enter His divine purpose.

God has His general way of seeing things, sin could be the cause of your problem, but He does not associate your suffering with your sin. He knows all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

*⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is patient with you**, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9

Sin is not the problem but in the midst of it, God is patient with us. He knows that we do not do things well, we’re lazy, stubborn, sinful, but He says He is patient with us. He does not want any to perish.

✓ *Have you been trying God’s patience?*

*¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.***

John 3:16-18

He did not come to condemn you, He did not come to point out your sin, the problem is unbelief. The problem is not sin and therefore the effects of sin are not the problem either. But he who has not believed is condemned.

Sin is no longer the problem!

⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

*⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? **Has no one condemned you?**"*

¹¹ "No one, sir," she said.

*"Then **neither do I condemn you,**" Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

John 8:5-11

The woman caught in the act of adultery was presented before Jesus. The people said the law of Moses tell them to kill whoever is caught in adultery.

- ✓ *What was Jesus' reply?*
- ✓ *Why did He reply in that way?*

Many people are happy to accuse you, but they cannot condemn you

- ✓ *How is this possible?*

Condemnation is in the hands of God and He has not sent His son to condemn. Not even you can condemn you, but you can accuse yourself even more than anyone else. Sometimes the bible may look like it is condemning us all over, but that is all that is under the law

- ✓ *But why is Jesus not condemning us?*

✓ *What does Jesus say after “neither do I condemn you” and why?*

Many people, knowing that God is looking to their sin would take advantage of the fact that He is not condemning anyone. But He tells her to go and live a life free from sin.

*7 Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. 18 All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us **from enemies into his friends** and gave us **the task of making others his friends also**. 19 Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ.[a]**God did not keep an account of their sins**, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.*

20 Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends!

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (Good News)

He changed us from enemies to friends, and to His friends, He has given the task to make others His friends

✓ *Are you a friend of God?*

If you are a friend of God, you have a task to do.

✓ *Are you doing the task of those that are His friends?*

In doing this, He is not recording your sins. This is what God is doing, making friends with the world. He does not want you to be distracted by suffering. Neither sin nor suffering is the problem. Do not look to your sin or suffering, but look to the work of God.

Making enemies His friends!

3. God wants to display His work in you

In your sickness, and hunger, He wants to display and reveal His work in you! Do not think of sin, think of the display.

*⁴As long as it is day, **we must do the works of him who sent me.** **Night is coming, when no one can work.** ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

John 9:4-5

We (You, me and Jesus) must do the works of God. There is a time when you will not be able to do the work. Actually, bible says, work for God before you're 50yrs. God has called you to this work. It is a work that must be done, it is a must. It is an obligation.

The suffering of people and our own gives us (You, me and Jesus) a great opportunity to do the work of God (Making enemies into His friends).

Do this thing, each year that passes by draws you closer to 50. At your wedding, discuss this with your partner during your honeymoon, for night is coming, when no one can work. We must be concentrated on this work.

CONCLUSION

¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Mark 16:15-18

Jesus said we should go into the whole world, especially where there is suffering, for it is the place where the opportunity is the greatest to do the work of God.

✓ *Which place to do think are suffering?*

Go out and share your story with the people around you, the signs must show.

✓ *Have you shared your redemption story?*

God has given us the responsibility, so be going! Go out into the world!