

**Darkness Confronted**  
**John 9:1-23**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** Why is life so often unfair?

**I) The disciples' answer**

Because of sin.

*Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*

Life isn't unfair. Everybody gets what they deserve.

**A) What's right about this answer?**

It assumes that we live in moral universe.

Many declare that life is essentially whimsical: attributing blindness to sin is cruel and silly

The problem with a whimsical universe

**B) What's wrong about this answer**

Too tidy

Job

**II) Jesus' answer**

He goes after it, and calls us to go with him

*Not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed.*

**A) Jesus doesn't explain darkness; he assaults it**

*We must work the works of him who sent me....*

**B) Jesus calls us to join him**

*We must work...*

**III) The answer of the cross**

## Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) How do you explain the uneven distribution of life's blessings and hardships?
- 2) Why can we no longer call the uneven distribution of life's blessings and hardships "wrong" if we believe that the universe is an impersonal, chance-driven place?
- 3) If "the wages of sin is death" is true, then what is wrong with assuming that if a person suffers, it is because of his sin?
- 4) Does it seem fair that God would allow a man to live decades as a blind man just so that God can show his glory by miraculously healing him? Why? Why not?
- 5) What do we mean that the plan of God is his own glory? What questions or problems do you have with this notion?
- 6) Reflect on the following statement: "When we cry, 'God, why don't you do something about poverty?' He responds, 'Why don't you?'"
- 7) Discuss the following: "The church is the best delivery system in the world. There are billions of Christians in millions of churches everywhere on the planet. The only thing that stands in the way of massive worldwide gospel impact is the will to be who we are where we are."
- 8) Jesus spoke of the "coming night, when no one could work." What made the cross so dark? And why is it the final answer to suffering?