



Title | Distorted Christian Conceptions
of Our Suffering
Series | Suffering Embraced
Text | Topical
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

John 9:1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Job 42:7 After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

Job 1:8 And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”

2 Corinthians 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” . . . *ESV*

Big Idea:

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

One Christian misconception regarding suffering is that it is always a result of some personal sin. Read John 9:1-3. How does this address the misconception? In another Bible story, Job suffers terribly. While Job maintains that his suffering is undeserved, his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar tell Job that he must have had it coming. From Job 42:7, how does God feel about it and how does it relate to the misconception?

Tuesday:

Another Christian misconception is that, if we suffer, it is our fault for being too ignorant or having too little faith to claim our rightful authority over suffering. Read Job 1:8; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:20; Philippians 2:25-30; and 1 Timothy 5:23. How do these scriptures address the misconception?

Wednesday:

Another Christian misconception is that the Christian life is not supposed to be so hard; with God on our side, things should be easier than they are. Read John 16:33; Philippians 1:29; and 1 Peter 4:12-13. How do these scriptures address the misconception?

Thursday:

Read Romans 8:28. What does this tell us about any unexplained suffering we may experience?

Friday:

It is Good Friday. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How was Jesus's suffering on the cross an indispensable part of a believer's ultimate well-being?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me think rightly about suffering and to learn to embrace it as an inescapable and indispensable part of my ultimate well-being. Amen.

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