



Rock Point Church
Caleb McMains | 7.6.25

Myth | Problems = Punishment

John 9:1-5 (NLT)

¹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ² “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” ³ “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴ We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. ⁵ But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

3 Types of Valleys:

- Disobedience
- Obedience
- No Clear Reason

3 Possible Actions:

- Disobedience -> Repent
- Obedience -> Stay
- No Clear Reason -> Trust

“While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life’s joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world’s sorrows, tasting the coming joy.” - Timothy Keller

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of a time in your life when something went wrong and you immediately thought, *“What did I do to deserve this?”*
2. Why do you think people often assume that problems or pain mean they’ve done something wrong? Where does that idea come from?
3. Read John 9:1-5. What does Jesus’ response to the disciples’ question reveal about how God views suffering and hardship?

4. Which of the three valleys—Disobedience, Obedience, or No Clear Reason—do you relate to most right now?
5. Why is it important to understand the difference between punishment and discipline in our relationship with God?
6. How does the Bible’s picture of the “valley” give us a healthier perspective on hard times?
7. What might it look like to “stay” faithfully in a valley that came from obedience (like Paul or Jesus)?
8. If you're in a valley with no clear reason, what does it practically look like to *trust* God instead of blaming Him or others?
9. How has God used a past valley in your life to shape you to be more like Jesus? What did you learn that you might not have otherwise?