Working the Works of God

Scripture Text: John 9:1–5

Introduction

1. In John 9:1, Jesus encounters a man who was blind from _____. In first-century Judea, this condition meant severe social and economic isolation.

2. Instead of showing immediate compassion, the disciples viewed the man as a philosophical _____ to be solved, asking who had sinned.

I. Dismantling the Doctrine of Retribution

3. The disciples operated under a strict theory of _____, assuming that specific suffering was always caused by a specific personal or parental sin.

4. Jesus directly shatters this assumption in verse 3, stating, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned." This proves that a Christian's trials are not an accurate _____ of their righteousness.

5. Cross-References: In _____ 13:1-5, Jesus states that those killed by a falling tower were not worse sinners than anyone else. God also rebuked the friends of _____ for assuming his losses were due to secret sins.

II. Shifting from Cause to Purpose

6. Jesus shifts the question from the past cause to the future purpose: "...but that the _____ of God should be revealed in him."

7. God uses the broken pieces of a fallen world as a canvas for His _____, power, and mercy.

8. According to 2nd Corinthians 1:3-4, one major reason God allows us to experience trials is so that we can _____ others who go through similar difficulties.

III. The Urgency of Active Ministry

9. Jesus issues a communal command in verse 4: "We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is _____."

10. In the sermon illustration, the photographer must be _____ to act quickly because the window of opportunity is short and the composition will be gone forever.

11. It is a major trap for the church to fall into intellectual _____—spending time debating, analyzing, or criticizing the culture while failing to serve hurting people.

12. Time is non-renewable. Ephesians 5:16 commands us to be wise making "_____ of the time, because the days are evil." James 4:14 warns that our life is but a _____.

IV. Exalting the Light of the World & The Path of Obedience

13. Jesus is the ultimate solution to _____ blindness, which is far more dangerous and eternally fatal than physical blindness.

14. In verses 6-7, the blind man did not receive his sight until he actively _____ the command to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.

15. This beautifully mirrors the New Testament plan of salvation: we are saved entirely by God's _____, but that grace must be met with obedient _____.

Personal Application & Weekly Study Suggestions

- Identify one trial or area of darkness in your life right now. Instead of asking "Why me?", write down how God's glory or a spirit of service can be displayed through it.

- Daily Reading Challenge: Read through the rest of John chapter 9 this week. Pay specific attention to how the healed man's courage and testimony grow every time he is questioned by the religious authorities.

- Action Step: Who is sitting "by the wayside" in your life? Commit to performing one concrete, active work of service or sharing the gospel with a neighbor before this week's "day" runs out.