



## **ONE CHURCH — ONE MESSAGE:**

### **LENTEN MESSAGE SERIES**

**WEEK FOUR :** Why do innocent people suffer and why does it seem like evil is sometimes rewarded?

**Scripture:** John 9:1-41 Jesus heals the blind man.

**What does God want us to know?** Evil and injustice are evidence of our need for God's mercy and grace. One day God will bring about justice in the world.

**What does God want us to do?** Minister with mercy and grace to someone else from a place of your own suffering. Don't let someone else's suffering be an obstacle to your faith.

Jesus' disciples asked him why a man was born blind, because of his sin or because of his parent's sins. It was a common belief that congenital disabilities were a result of sin. Jesus healed the man so that the glory of God could be seen (9:3). By this, he proves that rather than sin, hardship and suffering may be part of God's plan to reveal his power. Suffering that seems unjust is the most difficult kind – innocent children die of cancer and the murderer lives a long life. Jesus knows this better than anyone – he was treated extraordinarily unfairly. Evil and injustice in the world are evidence of our need for God's mercy and grace. And through his mercy and grace, his power is revealed to the world. For many people, injustice of innocent people leads to rejection of God. We say, "how can a good God allow this?" But it's not our story to tell. It's not ours to respond to. Ask some of those innocent people and they may tell you that their suffering was of great purpose. A different response to injustice – show God's mercy and grace.