

# Why God Allows Evil

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We should fully expect that if God allowed evil for a reason, the reason is embedded somewhere in the scriptures. The story of the prodigal son is one place where the character of the Father is highlighted specifically by the depravity of the son.

In John 9:2-3 the Bible tells a story about Jesus healing a blind man. The disciples of Jesus who saw the situation of the blind man were foolish in their evaluation:

2        *And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"*

3        *Jesus answered, "{It was} neither {that} this man sinned, nor his parents; but {it was} so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

Mercy requires an object and it cannot be an object that is perfect. When you are perfect, you have no need of mercy. Mercy requires someone that has fallen, is suffering or is depraved. The mercy of God cannot be seen without suffering pain.

The question was not whether the tragedy of evil could be avoided. The question was which tragedy to avoid - the tragedy of pain or the tragedy of the substantially hidden God. God chose the former; the cost to revelation. If he is to be revealed in his mercy, there must be evil. Imperfection had to be present.

The next time you are going through some difficulty and you wonder if God is really there, remember that God is able and willing to use you to demonstrate his work of mercy. It is not necessarily true that all hardship comes from sin. This includes your sin, the sins of your parents or even the sins of Adam and Eve from the beginning. God might just be preparing to display his work in you.