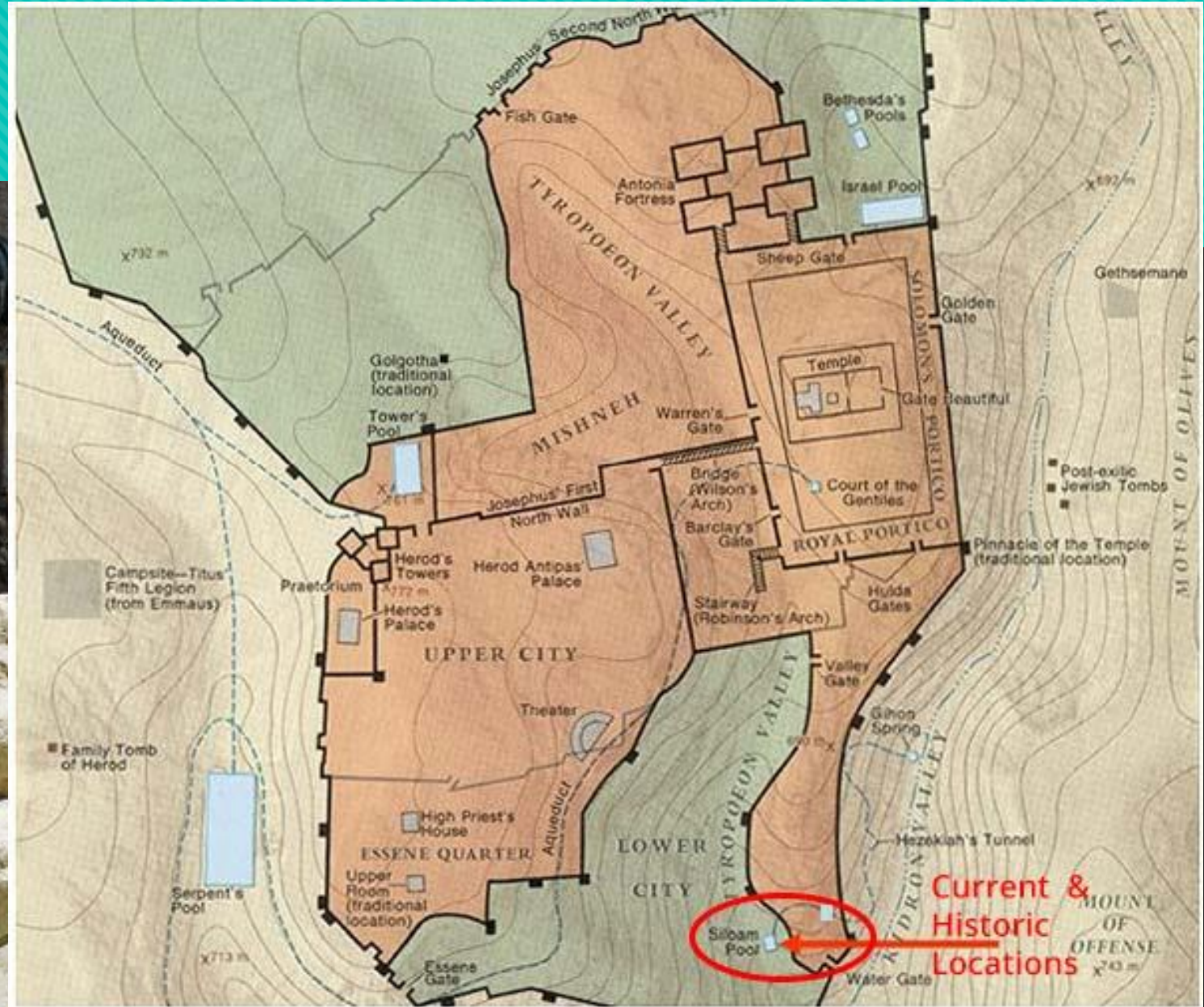


Once Was Blind But Now...

John 8:59- 9:39

From the temple grounds... (8:59)

- “picked up stones to throw at Him.”



The Involved Parties...

- Jesus
- Blind man
- The Disciples
- The others
- The Pharisees
- The parents

As He passed by... (vv. 1-2)

- “A man blind from birth”
- “Who sinned, this man or his parents?”

But that the works of God... (v. 3)

- “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, BUT that the works of GOD might be displayed in him.”

Observations (v. 3)

- This man lived his entire life blind.
- Why didn't Jesus say sin?

Big Questions???

If God is the ultimate good,
why would this man suffer with
blindness since birth?

Big Questions???

To understand the problem of suffering we must first understand the problem of evil.

Big Questions???

If God exists, and he is;
omniscient, omnipresent,
omnipotent, and
omnibenevolent
why does evil exist?

Big Questions???

- All human sin, evil, and affliction can be traced back to Adam and Eve.
- Human existence and experience degrades from Adam and Eve (when God created everything it was “good”).

Big Questions???

- God did allow (did not cause) evil at the choice of Adam and Eve.
- Adam and Eve began the ruin of all that was good. We are the recipients of that, BUT...

Big Questions???

- We take it upon ourselves to follow suit and in the footsteps of our ancestral parents (Adam and Eve) – Rom 3:23

Big Questions???

- Yet God, infinite and all knowing pre-ordained Jesus to reconcile mankind to Himself
- God in His mercy, is patiently withholding ultimate judgment that we might receive His gift.

Big Questions???

- The existence of pain, suffering, and even evil help point to the reality of good, and ultimately of God.
- There must be a knowledge of a “good” standard to experience pain, suffering, evil, etc...

Big Questions???

- Romans 8:18-21
 - “...sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory...”
 - “...set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God’s children.”

Big Questions???

- 2nd law of Thermodynamics
 - The universe is moving from order to disorder

Big Questions???

Could God have a “good”
(morally) reason to
allow suffering?

Big Questions???

YES!!!

To point us to Him!

Big Questions???

If the blind man wasn't blind, he's not begging, if he's not begging Jesus likely doesn't pass by him.

Big Questions???

SO... Is it worth it?

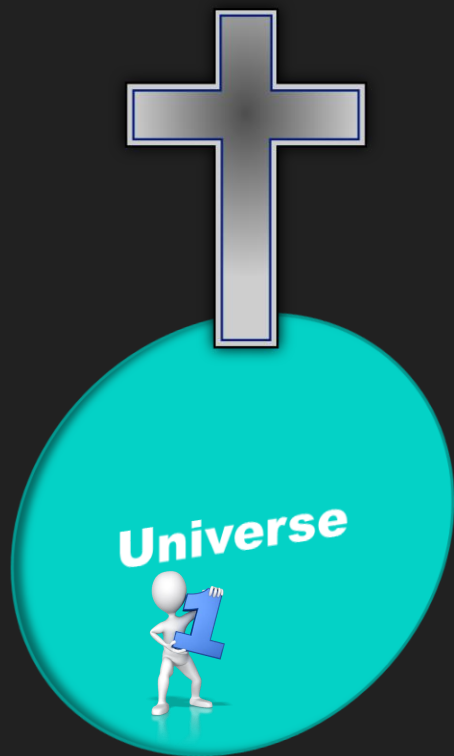
A lifetime of blindness, humiliation,
frustration, begging, etc...???

Big Questions???

Who's at the center of the
universe?

Universe





Now, it's our turn...

- Physical sickness?
- Financial problems?
- Marital stress?
- Unemployment
- Car trouble?
- Bills?
- Brokenheart?
- Etc...

Now, it's our turn...

Is it worth it?

Now, it's our turn...

Is it possible that all the pain
and suffering we endure
might be intended to point us
and others to God?