



## 2022-5-22 When Jesus Passes By

John 9:1-41, Exodus 3:21-22, 1 Kings 19:11-12, Job 42:7, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 1 John 2:11

### One Couldn't Help But Ask

- We learn that many people including the Jews had several ideas about why someone would be punished at birth with a condition such as blindness. Charles H Dodd CH FBA (1884-1973) suggested five possible reasons behind their question.
  - Some believed in the pre-existence of souls, and the possibility those souls could sin.
  - Some believed in reincarnation, and perhaps he sinned in a previous existence.
  - Some believed that a baby might sin in the womb.
  - They thought the punishment was for a sin the man would later commit.
  - They were so bewildered that they threw out a wild possibility without thinking it through.

Jesus sets all of this aside but He did answer a question others today ask, "why these conditions exist in an innocent child." How would you answer them?

- Jesus said, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him...". Speaking to this man's situation, Jesus told them that even his blindness was in the plan of God so that the works of God should be revealed in him. Does this mean that God created him blind so that some day he could be healed and show God's glory? Wouldn't that be cruelty?
- Jesus mentions that the night is coming when no one can work. What does this mean, how should we take it, and how should we react?
- The water for the pool of Siloam came through Hezekiah's tunnel, a remarkable engineering feat built in Old Testament times. "It was called Siloam, which, it was said, meant sent, because the water in it had been sent through the conduit into the city." (Barclay)

So, the water that was "sent" to the city was part of the healing process. Was anything else sent there also involved?

- Jesus performed this miracle on the sabbath day knowing it would be controversial. Why would He do this knowing there was a law against kneading, e.g., mixing dirt and saliva?

### **The Take Aways**

- Regarding the cause of a situation vs. what should be done. "It is ours, not to speculate, but to perform acts of mercy and love, according to the tenor of the gospel. Let us then be less inquisitive and more practical, less for cracking doctrinal nuts, and more for bringing forth the bread of life to the starving multitudes." (Spurgeon)
- David Guzik offers this thought. Neither this man nor his parents sinned: First, Jesus said that the man's blindness - essentially a birth defect - was not caused by some specific sin on the part of the man or his parents.
  - i. Birth defects and other such tragedies are sometimes due to sinful behavior of the parents.
  - Yet far more often - and in the case Jesus spoke of here - it is due simply to sin and our fallen condition in general, not due to any specific sin.
  - The sin of Adam set the principle of death and its associated destruction in the world, and we have had to deal with it ever since.
- Some would think that spit & mud are offensive, inadequate and possibly harmful but Jesus uses them to perform a miracle instead of just healing the man. Guzik compares this directly to the gospel.
  - Some feel that the gospel is offensive. It is true that it offends man's pride and human wisdom, but it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
  - Some feel that the gospel is inadequate. But have all the psychiatric and political and social programs in the world done more good than the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ?
  - Some feel that the gospel is harmful, that the free offer of grace in Jesus will cause people to sin that grace may abound. But the gospel changes our life for the good and the pure, not unto wickedness.

### ***An invitation to join us***

*This study guide is provided in the hope that others will be moved to consider the sermon, let their mind wander to questions it might raise and thoughts they wish to remember and apply to their personal life. If anyone reading the guide cares to ask a question or share their thoughts regarding the subject, please e-mail the authors at [mensbreakfast@therivercolorado.org](mailto:mensbreakfast@therivercolorado.org) . If you would like to participate in the building of the study guide, please let us know and we'll make provisions to have you join us via phone and/or Zoom*