

NO MORE BLAME GAME

Text: John 9:11

Subject: What Happens When You Stop Asking Why?

Introduction

(This miracle of healing has a striking backdrop)

All read John 8:59

“Then took they up stones to cast at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.” (John 8:59)

1. The enemies of Jesus were furious because Jesus has just claimed to be God and even existed before Abraham.
2. The Jews then attempt to stone Jesus, but Jesus hides Himself and slips through the crowd.
3. Jesus is calm, controlled, composed and takes notice of blind beggar by the roadside.

In Other Words

- ◆ He is looking for an opportunity to display the wonderful works of God!
- ◆ He is looking for an opportunity to reveal the power of God!
- ◆ He is looking for an opportunity to manifest His healing virtue upon:
 - Those who are in need,
 - Those who believe He is able,
 - Those who are here in His presence today.

And nothing has changed from then till now.

- ◆ For Jesus sees you today and knows exactly where you are, what you need, how you feel, where you're going.

The Question Is:

- ◆ Why did the disciples ask Jesus what they asked Him?
- ◆ Why did Jesus answer them the way He answered them?
- ◆ And, why was the man anointed with saliva and dirt and healed in the process?

Today

You don't need answers to your questions!

I. The Agony of Painful Experiences (v.1)

“And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth.” (v. 1)

What kind of man was seen?

- ◆ A man born blind from birth. (v. 1)
 - ◆ A man sitting by the roadside begging. (v. 8)
1. This man is unique in that he is the only blind person in the gospels who is said to have been born blind.
 2. He is well known to the wayside, crowds as he appeals for alms.
 3. He is regarded as a nuisance to the general public.
 4. He can contribute nothing to the life of the community. Nobody back home believes he will ever be changed.

But Jesus “saw” Him

(Which means)

- ◆ Jesus saw this one man in a crowd of many.
- ◆ Jesus observed this man with a condition that no one could cure.
- ◆ Jesus viewed this man as one who needed His gift of healing.
- ◆ Jesus knew what was going on inside of this man.

And Jesus knows what's going on inside you.

- ◆ That struggle of "Why me Lord?"
- ◆ That frustration of "Why so long Lord?"
- ◆ That wondering of "Why this or why that Lord?"
- ◆ That waiting for answered prayers to be realized.

II. The Asking of the Disciples (v. 2)

Question: What do the disciples ask Jesus?

Answer: They ask Jesus what many people ask Jesus,
"Master, who did sin; this man or his parents that he was born blind?"

In Other Words

- ◆ Why did this happen Jesus? (And)
- ◆ Whose fault is it, or who's to blame?

Question: Why did the disciples ask this million dollar question?

Answer: Because the popular doctrine of the day was:

1. All suffering in this life has its origin in some particular sin in the person suffering. (Or)
2. It is the parent's fault that God has visited the son with this blindness and affliction.

In Other Words

- ◆ The disciples have fallen into the "blame" game and the "why" game.

Question: Have you ever played that game?

Question: Have you ever suffered pain and wondered if it was your fault or not?

Question: Have you ever seen someone else suffer and wondered who's to blame?

It's not unusual

- ◆ In Judges 6:13, Gideon said, *"Lord if you are with us, then why are we in all this trouble?"*
- ◆ In Job 8:6, Bildad said, *"Job, if you were upright and pure you wouldn't be going through all this."*
- ◆ In Acts 28:4, when Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake, the island people said, *"Look, he must be a murderer and vengeance is come upon him from God."*

Question: How do I escape the guilt and blame game?

Answer: By understanding Hebrews 5:8

"Though He were a son (that's Jesus) yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered."

Question: So who sinned, Jesus or His Father?

Answer: Neither one, yet Jesus learns obedience through the things which He suffers!

Question: What are you saying?

Answer: I'm saying that Jesus wants you to get beyond the asking stage and the blame game.

- ◆ But, I was laid off from my job without notice (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, my mom served God all her life and died of cancer. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, my husband was unfaithful and betrayed our wedding vows. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, my children know better, yet won't even call me. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, my wife wants out and refuses to be reconciled. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, the missionary was doing God's will and was murdered. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, bad things happened to good people. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, I have to move out of the area and don't want to. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, I've been lied about and rejected for obeying God. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ But, I love God and yet my body is in pain. (Whose fault is it?)
- ◆ Jesus, whose fault is it (this blindness). Is it the blind man's fault or his parent's fault?

III. The Answer from Jesus (v. 3-5)

Question: What does Jesus say to the questioning disciples?

Answer: Jesus teaches us how to go from unwholesome thinking (to wholesome thinking) that will change your life and attitude!

1. Jesus says, ***“Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”*** (v. 3)

Fact: Jesus rebukes the idea that sin is the direct cause of this man's illness.

Fact: Jesus rebukes the idea of you and me trying to place blame.

Fact: Jesus rebukes the idea of us trying to find out all the answers of all the causes behind misfortune, and pain and disappointment.

But the disciples are troubled.

- ◆ Is fate the master of life?
- ◆ Is there no rationale for this circumstance?
- ◆ Are we only victims of fate and disease?
- ◆ Aren't we supposed to know why?

Fact: Jesus felt the man's condition called for action (not discussion!)

“Neither this man or his parents sinned to cause this blindness” but....

2. Jesus says: (v. 2) ***“The works of God should be made manifest in him.”*** (Which means)
 - ◆ That God's power would be exercised in healing the sick.
 - ◆ That God has already arranged to meet this need.
 - ◆ That God's power will be revealed to you.
3. Jesus says: (v. 3) ***“I must work the works of Him that sent Me.”*** (Which means)
 - ◆ “I must demonstrate the mercy of God which I've been commissioned to do.”
 - ◆ “I must express the nature of God's power in working this miracle.”
4. Jesus says: (v. 5) ***“I am the Light of the world.”*** (Which means)
 - ◆ “As the sun dispels all darkness each day, so I will push out all works of darkness is your life.”

- ◆ “As the dark of night cannot keep the light from breaking in, so nothing can keep me from breaking in upon your life.” Are you struggling with specific sins? Today is your day of change.

In Other Words

- ◆ Quit asking whose fault it is to blame,
- ◆ And begin to realize that wherever God finds you is God’s opportunity now!

Question: Opportunity for what?

Answer: Opportunity that the works of God should be made manifest in your life.

Question: How can God manifest His work in my life?

Answer: By you; stop asking questions and start receiving grace.

In Other Words

- ◆ If you keep questioning (or blaming) you’ll get depressed, angry and withdraw from people (and God).
- ◆ But if you stop questioning and blaming, you’ll be God’s opportunity to reveal Himself to you in a whole new way.

In Other Words

- ◆ We either experience oppressiveness - or opportunity.
- ◆ We either question Jesus – or receive from Jesus.
- ◆ We either wallow in pity – or we rise in praise.
- ◆ We either question and get sour – or we trust and grow sweeter.

Helen Keller said;

“Self-pity is our worst enemy and if we yield to it, we can never do anything wise in this world.”

IV. The Anointing Of The Eyes (v. 6)

Question: What did Jesus do after He taught us a valuable lesson?

Verse 6, *“He spat on the ground and made clay of spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay.”*

Question: Why did Jesus cover eyes He wanted to see?

Question: Why did Jesus seal eyes He wanted to open?

Question: Why did Jesus touch the eyes with clay?

One Reason:

- ◆ Jesus wanted to evoke hope and expectations in the heart of the man.
- ◆ Jesus wanted to stir up the latent power of faith.
- ◆ Jesus wanted the man to expect a cure from Jesus.
- ◆ Jesus wanted us to focus, not on the natural means or channels or methods, but upon the virtue of Jesus himself!

In Other Words

- ◆ It’s not the clay on the ground,
- ◆ It’s not the spittle of a man.
- ◆ But it’s the power and virtue of Jesus himself that affects us.

Question: What did Jesus tell the man to do? “Go wash in the pool of Siloam.” (v. 7)

Question: If there is no virtue in material means and channels, then why the command to

“Go wash.”

- Answer:**
- ◆ To encourage the man in his faith.
 - ◆ To confirm and strengthen him in believing.
 - ◆ To test his obedience to get up and take steps towards his healing.

Fact: He believes that Jesus will do what He said.

Fact: He journeys to the pool in faith believing.

Fact: He may have thought it tough to heal a chronic, long-term illness.

Fact: He may have struggled in his mind like some of you have struggled!

Notice

1. There is no record of mountain moving faith.
2. There is no standard of a 1, 2, 3 step formula.
3. There is no command to follow some concrete pattern.

“Just Go Wash”

And listen to the testimony...

“I went and washed and received.” (v. 11)

In Other Words

1. The man took the step of obedience to get up and go to the pool! (And)
2. The Lord took the step of action to minister the gift of healing! (Why?)
 - ◆ Because we the issue is not whose fault it is. That’s horizontal focus.
 - ◆ The issue is He wants to manifest His power in you so you can rise above it.

That’s Vertical Focus

In Other Words – Two Choices

1. Waste my days with blame and questions and anger and why me? (Or)
2. Enjoy my days with grace and blessing, obedience and joy.

How: Instead of questioning Jesus, reach out and receive from Jesus.

Why: Verse 3, “*So that the works of God can be manifest in you.*” (This is God’s desire for you.)

- ◆ The Lord lives to forgive sin, to heal sickness, to carry burdens, to change what needs to be changed!!!

AMEN
Bill Kirk