

God is Good
April 25, 2010

John 9:1-12 and John 10:7-10

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Synopsis:

Upon seeing a man born blind, the disciples ask Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

We ask this kind of question all the time:

Why do bad things happen to us?

We must have done something wrong.

Jesus does not answer this question, but points to the purpose behind the question, as if to say, "You're not asking the right question."

All kinds of things happen to us.

We don't know the cause.

We do know that God is good and works in us.

I.

Bad Stuff Happens to People

John 9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth

We see all sorts of inequities as we walk along in life

-people are different: fat, skinny, rich, poor, blind, see

-some die young, old

-things happen to us making us ask why

E.g. Carter dying when she was 19

-Angry, wanted to know answers

-Dr Dewitz: "I don't know why"

Human tendency is to reason this out:

1. God is good

2. If I am good

3. God will be good to me

4. If I am bad

5. God will be bad to me

6. Good happens = God is pleased

7. Bad happens = God is angry

*Julie Andrews/Sister Maria theology

"Somewhere in my youth or childhood,

I must have done something good."

Jesus says this story is to make the blind see and the seeing blind.

I pray we may be blind in order to see.

II.

Seeing People Become Blind

John 9:24 “We know this man is a sinner”

We humans have three motivations in life:

1. Look good
2. Be right
3. Be in control

This story: Disciples, Authorities, Neighbors display all three
READ story and point out this tendency

How are we like these people?

- we know
- we see
- we control
- we're afraid
- we don't listen
- we change to story to fit needs:
 - Look good
 - Be right
 - Be in control

We're afraid to admit that life is chaotic

We want to tie everything down!

We are blind people according to Jesus

READ John 9:39-41

If we say we see, we're blind

If we say we're blind, we see

*Seeing people become blind

III.

Blind People Gain Sight

John 9:25 One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see

Famous words to Amazing Grace:

I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

What if (especially in Southern California)

We can't look good
We aren't always right
We are out of control

Watch the story of the blind man: READ story again

Not sure
Doesn't know who Jesus is
Maybe Jesus is a prophet
Don't know if he is a sinner
Think maybe Jesus is from God
Want to believe but not sure how
Finally come to Jesus

*Blind people gain sight

IV.

People Trust in Jesus

John 9:35 Do you believe in the Son of Man?

What's the purpose of this story?

1. Explain why bad things happen? NO

-never know
-rain falls on the righteous and wicked
-Augustine: good peculiar to good; evil peculiar to evil
"For now we see through a glass, darkly" (1Cor 13)

2. Point us to Jesus. YES

What is God up to in this world?
When we meet Jesus we find out.

READ last scene: John 9:35-41

We do not know why things happen to us
Dr Dewitz comment: "I don't know why"
Even Jesus does not tell us: Wrong question

We do know that God is present in Jesus: LIGHT of WORLD
Purpose of things that happen is to bring us to Jesus
When that happens, we begin to see
"In your light, we see light" Psalmist