

SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, March 18/19, 2023 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Who Sinned?” TEXT: John 9:1-41

INTRO. Grandma K.>pregnant w/third child – fell down stairs. Aunt Lorraine was a “slow-learner”. Always had sense of guilt. Not unusual> cause and effect. Bad happened...someone’s fault. “Who sinned?”

TEXT: Disciples see man born blind: “Who sinned? Him or his parents?” Cause and effect: bad result so God must have judged someone, right? Jesus says, “Neither” but God will use it for his purposes. Still does.

I. FAULT-FINDING IS OUR COMPULSION

ILLUST. “No-fault Insurance” – Seemed weird and unfair somehow.

- A. Whenever an accident or catastrophe occurs, immediately “under investigation” > Who sinned? [Turkey comes to mind.]
- B. When health is stricken: What DIDN’T you do?
 - 1. Bombarded by ads for vitamins, supplements, home gyms – all aimed at encouraging/guiling you into saving yourself.
 - 2. So when sickness comes, sense of guilt > What DIDN’T I do?
- C. Job’s “friends”: “What did you do that God has punished you so?”
 - 1. “Confess it and God will restore you!” It’s logical.
 - 2. “I didn’t do anything to deserve THIS!” It’s logical.

II. THAT’S MY CHILD

ILLUST. Jean Snapp > hidden away until Mom dying. Our buddy! Blessed.

- A. Parents of the man born blind probably felt guilt from start.
 - 1. Family and neighbors had suspicions. Mumblings.
 - 2. Sorrow, the pity of others, and questions, lots of questions.

ILLUST. During meiosis (egg or sperm cell production) the 21st chromosome fails to separate. That cell joins with another and a child born with Down’s

- 3. TODAY: Handicapped child > Parents - “What did I do wrong?”
- 4. Why did God do this to my child? To me? It’s logical.
- B. LISTEN: We live in a broken world – just look around.
 - 1. Brokenness affects us all – we are all handicapped in some way.
 - 2. Now, not talking about sinful choices: drink 12 beers, drive, wreck.
 - 3. Bad stuff happens, but we trust that God will work good even when we can’t see it or know it. (Think of the Cross)

III. I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE

- A. Jesus healed the man TWICE: first eyes, then heart.
- B. Pharisees blind to the truth – worst handicap of all!
- C. When unforeseeable troubles come> trust the Lord will work His will.

CLOSE: Joe Burbrink, Down’s, group home. Communion=good. A blessing.