



SERIES: John Believe
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Scripture: John 9:1-7
TITLE: It's Not Anyone's Fault

When our son was battling cancer, some well-intentioned friends told us that his cancer was caused by our sins or the sins of a relative. This did nothing for our faith but frustrate it. I could not understand why they would say this.

Well, Jesus rejected this kind of theology. How do I know that? Let's go back to the Bible to find out.

Here's what John records in John 9:1-7.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."

John wrote this Gospel so that the world might believe in Jesus. We have seen other miracles in this book. Some were public, and others were limited to a small group. But all were miracles.

Here, sometime later, from the conversation with the religious leaders, Jesus and the disciples pass by a blind man. The disciples see an unnecessary dilemma. They ask, "Who's fault is this blindness? The man or his parents?" They assumed it must have been the result of sin. This is what we experienced when our son was battling cancer. "Who's fault is it?"

It's not anyone's fault. The idea that sin necessitates a physical consequence is not found in Scripture nor the evidence of life. Yes, in passages like Exodus 20:5, it does say that there are national or societal effects because of sin. But not like what the disciples think here. The idea of a child being punished for the sins of the parents is foreign to Scripture.

Deuteronomy 24:16 says,

"Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin."

Why was this man blind? Jesus says, "that the works of God might be displayed in him." The disciples were looking backward instead of forward. Jesus' concern wasn't on the what of the

situation but how it could be remedied. That was by the hand of God. Jesus makes clay from the ground and puts it on the man's eyes. Jesus tells the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. And he obeys.

Faith with works is alive. The man was blind, but by faith, he could see. Jesus' power was demonstrated that day so that man, and we, might believe.

But here's the reality. Jesus came not so blind people could see, or deaf people hear. He came to make spiritually dead people live.

God can and will heal your greatest disease: sin. All you have to do is believe.