

*That the Work of God might be displayed*

**John 9:1-4, 7**

***As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>7</sup> “So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.***

The rabbis had developed the principle that “There is no death without sin, and there is no suffering without iniquity.” They also held that terrible punishments came on certain people because of the sin of their parents. This is the kind of thinking that leads to the disciples’ question.

When tragedy strikes, some observers want to blame it on the afflicted. We may fear that, if tragedy could strike others, it could also hit us. Those who suffer often blame themselves as well, wondering which sin God singled out to punish.

There is no one-to-one correlation of sin and punishment. Bad things happen in this world because sin causes problems and even death. We need to repent of all our sins in this life. For all the evil in this world, our lives at times can be very frustrating. BUT Christ’s death on the cross has won for us forgiveness of sins and life and salvation.

Jesus rejects both of the suggested causes to the man’s blindness and declares that it is an opportunity for the Gospel to shine forth and for God’s work to be done while it is still day (vs 3–4).

There are many people seeking to fix blame as to the cause of the coronavirus. As Christians, that is not something in which we should indulge. Our task is to see what God is trying to tell us, to look for lessons from which we can learn and apply to our hearts and lives.

There are many individuals and organizations that are responding to the current situation in very positive ways. As Christians, we can join in on these positive actions and be a strong witness to the faith within in our hearts. Look for God’s work within your daily activities.

Lord Jesus, thank you for taking all the punishment I deserve for all of my sins. Thank you for a faith that can lean on you in all situations. Help me to look to your Word to see the opportunities you are putting into my daily paths to be your witnesses in all circumstances. Amen.