

WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

John 9:1-11

I. A HAUNTING QUESTION

- A. *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:1-2)*
- B. Inquiring Minds Want to Know!
1. Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit and we want to know: Whose fault is it?
 2. A marriage crumbles and the question is always raised: Whose fault is it?
 3. A young unmarried girl becomes pregnant or a teenage boy gets hooked on drugs and people want to know: Whose fault is it?
 4. There is a terrorist attack, a Tsunami strikes, a tornado touches down, and we want to know: Whose fault is it?
 5. A man is born blind and the disciples want to know: Whose fault is it?
- C. A *Theodicy* Question.
1. We are constantly trying to justify the ways of God to humanity.
 2. We know that we "reap what we sow." We have no problem with that.
 3. The problem comes when we reap what we have not sown.
- D. Lucky Charms.
1. In an attempt to ward off evil, we stoop to superstition.
 2. Wearing a cross won't keep the demons away and St. Christopher medals don't prevent auto accidents.

II. A HAUNTING REPLY

- A. *Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him." (John 9:3)*
- B. That's Not the Answer We Wanted.
1. "You don't know, do you?"
 2. How did it all begin?
 3. If God won't promise us safety, what does God promise?
- C. We're Asking the Wrong Question.
1. God promises that his grace is sufficient.
 2. God promises that nothing will be able to separate us from him.
 3. The question we need to ask: What good can this tragedy produce?
- D. Place Your Life on the Altar.
1. When a heartache or an illness or a death comes, ask: "Father, what use can you make of this?"
 2. If life beats you down or takes your finances, ask: "Heavenly Father, what can you make this mean?"

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Dixie Borden, Marie Davis, Deborah Hendrix, **Vicki Page-Skehan**, Moody Sentell, Gwen Steward ... **Friends** – Callie Acred, Tommy Anderson, Meryl Broussard, Olivia Davis, Ricky Dennison, Molly Kate Duncan, Matthew Gatlin, Jeff Joyner, Sheena Moore, Richard Reed, Brenda Sentell, **Jenny Stafford**, Lyle Sturgis, Allen Voss ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Matt Tyler** and his family on the death of his uncle, **Jim Tyler**, who died on Monday, February 25 ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Guiding God, sometimes we stand in the middle of your kingdom and wonder where it is? We weren't born blind, but like the Pharisees in Jesus' day, we just don't see what is all around us. There is so much love and joy in the world, but we see only sadness and pain. Our lives are filled with so much potential and so many opportunities, and we see only problems and possibilities for failure. Our family, friends and even our church are so good to us, but we see only their shortcomings. Open our eyes, O God. Help us see.

Sometimes we act like we own the kingdom. We make up rules and say they're yours. We pronounce judgments and say they're from your lips. Wake us up, Lord. Help us. Open our eyes so we may see the world as your Son saw it. Open our minds to see the possibilities we shut out. Open our hearts so that we may love as Jesus loved. Open our lives so that we may accept the rest of the world as Jesus accepts us. Hear us now as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

JOHN 9:1-11

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his 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 made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight."

SERMON SCHEDULE

March 9	<i>"Lord, if You Had Been Here ..."</i>	John 11:1-45
March 16	<i>When Everything You've Wanted Isn't Enough</i>	John 26:69-75
March 20	<i>He Descended into Hell</i> Maundy Thursday Communion Service	John 13:1-20 7:00 o'clock
March 21	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</i>	7:00 o'clock
March 23	<i>While It Was Still Dark</i> Easter Sunday	John 20:1-18
March 30	<i>When the Doors Are Shut</i>	John 20:19-31