

## **Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – February 21, 2010**

### **Who Sinned?**

**“Rabbi, who sinned this man or his parents that he was born blind? Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’” – John 9:2-3**

Cause and effect. We learn to think that way when we are very young. Do this and that happens. Do that and something else takes place. Then there are the unexplained events in life. It disturbs us when we can't draw a straight line from a cause to an effect.

Job was beset by all manner of plagues and disasters. His friends were certain they knew the root cause of his afflictions. It must be because he has committed some heinous act against God that these things were brought to bear in his life. Curse God and die was their advice. Many people surely would and still do take that advice and attitude. Curse God for the challenges that have come in life. Either charge God with wrong doing or recognize you can't please Him, so live life anyway you want, then curse God and die.

The disciples of Jesus were cause and effect people too. They saw a blind man. They were certain of the cause: his sin or his parents' sin. All they needed from Jesus was to nail down the final certainty and affix the blame. They did not know anything. This man was blind for the glory of God. For when Christ gave the blind man his sight, the works of God manifested to the whole world the glory of our gracious and merciful God.

Now some would charge God with doing wrong because this poor beggar was blind. Let us not be among them. God is not the author of evil. He does indeed saddle us with tests and challenges of all manners and shapes. Some are slight in our estimation and some are great. At times He even allows the consequences of the evil we commit to darken our path as discipline for His beloved children...but He brings good out of those

things too. Case in point: Joseph. His brothers meant evil in selling him into slavery but God meant it for good to save many people.

What are the challenges in your life? Do the crosses you carry seem too large to carry? Do you think God is punishing you as a consequence of your sin? Christ took the entire consequence of our sin upon Himself. He paid the debt we owed and has released us from the guilt and shame that are rightly ours. What then of the challenges we face? They are so the works of God might be revealed in us! Who can know what great things God will do with us and through us. In all things then, we rejoice...and we give God all the glory!

- ❖ Remember: You are God's chosen people. Don't forget His promises. God is always with us, even when He tests us with challenges beyond what we think we can bear, He never forsakes us. Ask yourself : What great things is God doing through me?
  
- ❖ Remember: God is always faithful to His Word, even if His purpose is hidden to us at the time we are tested. Be every Sunday people! Learn the unfailing promises of God. Share the Good News with others, especially in the times of their trials and testing when they might be tempted to despair!

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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