



BIG QUESTIONS

Monday, April 3 | John 9: 1-12

Preschoolers have inquisitive minds. As we interact with them, it doesn't take long before the inevitable question arises, "Why?" Like The Song that Doesn't End, each attempted answer can be met with another, "But why?" Adults will often invoke the, "Because I said so" or the "That's just the way it is" technique to derail the "why train." Understanding the relationship between cause and effect in our circumstances is an effort to find some measure of control over our experiences.

As in many modern cultures and religions, Jews in the first century presumed a direct correlation between "my actions" and "my health and prosperity." The hypothesis generally has two options: My good deeds warrant a bountiful reward, while bad choices and actions result in misfortune.

In our story, Jesus and His disciples encounter a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples' question leaps the "Why" and seeks to identify a "Who" that is responsible. In His response, Jesus answers neither question but frames the situation from God's point of view. This man's reality was an opportunity for God to show kindness and mercy.

- How has your culture and/or your faith tradition trained you to search only for meaning in the causes for your failures?
- Have you been guilty of judging others by their circumstances?
- How can you find an opportunity for God to work in all situations?

Prayer: Jesus, open my eyes to Your hand at work in my world. Help me to be an instrument of Your peace.

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