



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Saturday, April 8 | John 9:1-12

When we see the suffering throughout our world we tend to focus on why it is happening. We want to know who is at fault. Some people even ask how a loving God would allow such suffering. Still, others assume that the suffering of individuals is in some way connected to their own personal choices. The common belief during Jesus' ministry was that suffering was a direct result of sins made by the individual or their family. This is precisely where the disciples were residing as they asked Jesus who had sinned to make this man blind.

Jesus, however, turns their attention away from the cause of the suffering and toward the work of God in the midst of suffering. He tells them that the question of guilt is not what is important; what is important is what God does for those who suffer. The reality for the blind man is the same reality that we find ourselves in. We all find ourselves blind, from time to time, to the presence of God. What makes John's gospel unique is that it follows the path of wisdom literature that speaks of the wisdom of God as a light into the world. Jesus is this light. It is of no coincidence that in the previous chapter (John 8:12) and in the current chapter (John 9:5) Jesus refers to himself as this light in the world. The man born blind comes into the presence of Jesus, the light of the world, and now he sees.

When we become aware of suffering, instead of asking "why?" we should be asking "what can we do to help?" Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Jesus invites us all to be a part of this comfort in verse 4 when he says, "we must work the works of Him who sent me." Jesus invites us today to be that light in the world so that all may recognize, and be comforted by, the presence of God.

Prayer: Father, give me your eyes today to become aware of the suffering in the world. Show me today what it means to comfort those who mourn. Help me to be part of the light in the world that takes away the darkness.

Written by Chris Bohon