

¹Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, saying, "**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**" ³Jesus answered, "**Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.**" John 9:1-3 NKJV

How superstitious are you?

When I was young I used to think I was being punished for doing wrong every time I kicked my toe or something went wrong, even if I had no idea of what I may have done. Sometimes we have this wrong view of God as being a punisher, when He has laid all His punishment for sin on Jesus and appeased His wrath, so He can be gracious to those who receive Christ and walk in repentance and His righteousness. We need not fear punishment if we are standing in His righteousness. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.

How quickly do you judge people when things seem to be going wrong in their lives?

Jesus' disciples immediately jumped to conclusions about this man. Operating under an Old Testament mindset, they assumed that his affliction was a result of sin, either his or his parents, but Jesus said that was not the case here. This man's affliction was so that the glory of God could be manifested in him. Jesus revealed Himself to this man and through him. He received the miracle of spiritual and physical sight!

Isaiah prophesied of the Lord, "*And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth...*" (Isaiah 11:3-4)

We too, ought not to judge a matter by the appearance of things, by the seeing of our eyes and hearing of our ears, or with a religious, superstitious mindset. We should arrange ourselves to see with **the Lord's perspective and not alienate ourselves from others because of our incorrect preconceived ideas about them.**

May God's love be revealed in and through us as we accept and love others and see God's hope for them, and what wonderful miracles He desires to in their lives!

This poor, blind man has become a testimony to God's love, power and goodness for eternity!

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? How does it apply to you?
- 2) Have you incorrectly judged others based on the outward appearance of things?
- 3) Do you have an affliction, that you now realise God wants to use as a testimony of His goodness, power and love?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?