

## THE THIRD OPTION

John 9:1-3

Introduction:

The Question – Whose sin is responsible for this man's blindness?

A) The big story of Scripture

> Sickness, disease, blindness, death, etc. are a part of a fallen world

When Jesus returns He will make all things new (Rev 21:1-4)

B) The disciples' mistake

> They want to assign particular consequences of sin to particular acts of sin

> There is another story in the Bible where we see this same attitude and error (Job)

Option #1 – Was this man's sin the cause of his blindness?

A) The assumptions behind this option

> Handicapped people were especially sinful

> It was possible for a person to sin before they were born

B) The dangers behind this assumption

> They are mixing truth and error and that is never a good recipe

The truth – Sinful choices do reap undesirable fruit

The story of Jonah (Jonah 1:10-12)

The consequences of walking the path of folly (Proverbs 1:22-33)

The error – not all suffering or physical hardship is a direct result of personal sin

Option #2 – Was it his parent's sin that caused his blindness?

A) The assumption behind this option

> If it wasn't this man's sin that caused his blindness then his parents must be responsible

The disciples recognize the serious consequences of sin in others ... but at the same time minimize the seriousness of their own sin

## B) The dangers behind this assumption

> This assumption also mixes truth and error

Truth – A parents choices do impact their children (Exodus 20:4-6)

Error – Physical handicaps and national crisis are not always the result of parental sin

> The disciples have also limited the options by their assumptions

Given the circumstances – the man’s blindness, there were only two options

Given the circumstances, Israel made a similar mistake on the shores of the Red Sea

## Option #3 – This man was born blind for God’s purposes

### A) The clarification (John 9:3)

> Neither this man’s sin nor his parents’ sin are responsible for this man’s blindness

> Jesus isn’t saying that this man and his parents are sinless (Romans 3:23; 5:12)

### B) The explanation – Why was this man born blind?

> God’s sovereign plan included this man’s blindness as a means to reveal His glory

> Let’s tread carefully on some “sacred ground” and discuss this matter

God’s sovereign purposes allowed great devastation in Job’s life

Jesus’ sovereign purposes determined that Lazarus would die (John 11:1-6)

God’s sovereign purpose chose to send Jesus to die on a cross

## **APPLICATION**

It is good to remember that sinful choices do produce undesirable consequences

If you have ever sinned, you need to know that the wages for your sin is death

Sometimes we need to ask, “Is there an identifiable cause for the hardship or suffering in my life?”

God’s purposes and glory are not diminished or concealed by the sufferings of this life

No matter the circumstances of our lives, there is always the third option

To willingly choose, “that the work of God might be put on display in my life.”