

WHY?

¹ *As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.* ² *His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”* ³ *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.* ⁴ *As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.* ⁵ *While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

John 9:1-5

²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Romans 8:28

I. Why questions

A. Nowhere in the Bible does God promise to answer vertical “Why questions” this side of eternity. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

²⁹ *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*

B. It is a myth to believe that contentment will begin when and if we understand “Why.”

C. In our text Jesus didn’t respond directly to the “Why question” of the disciples. He changed it to a “How question.”

II. How Questions

- A. Jesus turned the blame-seeking “Why question” into a God-seeking “How question.”
- B. “How might the blind man’s situation be used to reveal the glory and work of God?”
- C. Knowing the Why of our situation doesn’t heal, but knowing God’s glory can be displayed in his wider redemptive story is transforming!
- D. Man asks, “Why?”; “Why did this happen?”
- E. Jesus asks, “How?”; “How might the Father’s glory be displayed in this situation?”
- F. God uses things he hates to accomplish the things he loves.
- G. As long as we are “Why-Blaming” we are gazing at everything but God.
- H. I don’t have to understand Why; I only have to believe God has a How.
- I. It is a relief to be free of Why questions. It’s good not to need all the answers all the time! Let’s ask “How” and “What” over “Why.”

III. Whys are binding things.

- A. We are seduced by the Why.
- B. Then we become entitled by the Why.
- C. Then we become embittered in the Why.
- D. Then we are frozen in the Why. Advancement becomes impossible.

IV. When things don't make sense

“Perplexed, but not in despair.” (II Corinthians 4:8)

* Some things are given for us to know. (Matthew 13:11) But some things are not for us to know. (Acts 1:7)

[Mat 13:11 NIV] ¹¹ *He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”*

[Act 1:7 NIV] ⁷ *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”*

“We often fail to learn much we could know by trying to find out what we cannot know.” -Vance Havner

- A. Because things do not make sense to us, does not mean that they don't make sense at all.
- B. Because things do not make sense to us now, does not mean that they never will make sense.
- C. There is a higher viewpoint from which things which don't make sense to our ordinary reasoning may make sense to our spiritual understanding even now.
- D. My story, in and of itself, may not be explicable, but in God's wider story I know every thread of the tapestry will find its ultimate place and fulfillment.