

Reflection Questions for “Why me? Why this? Why now?”
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Woody L. Berry
John 9:1-12

1. When you were suffering, did any of these thoughts ever come to mind:
 - Why me?
 - What did I do?
 - Who is to blame?
 - Who is at fault?
 - Who dropped the ball?
 - Who wasn't paying attention?
 - Was it my fault or someone else's fault?If so, did it give you any comfort to know a causation or be able to place blame?

2. What kinds of questions are helpful to ask when it comes to causation and fault?

3. Rabbi Kushner says, “We can answer lots of questions about why certain things happen, but none of those answers will ever satisfy us enough to get rid of the pain and the anguish and the sense of unfairness that inevitably comes into our lives just because we're living life. Every life has struggles and pain and suffering at some points. And there will always be questions we can't answer.”
 - Does this statement seem true to you?
 - Does it seem true enough to make you stop asking those unanswerable questions?

4. Rabbi Kushner goes on to say, “that the power in our struggling is that it gives us the understanding of others and their struggles so that we know how to reach out and help others, as well as how to go on living despite our own pains.”
 - Has that proven true for you?
 - Have you seen that happen with others?
 - Is it enough to give you strength to go on living, no matter your own struggles?

5. In the story from the Gospel of John, Jesus is asked about the man blind from birth: “Who sinned, him or his parents?” Jesus answers, “Neither this man nor his family sinned, but he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed through him.”

Woody says that in this one sentence, Jesus propels us beyond our debilitating questions to a more profound question: How can I live right now? How can I be alive right now, this very minute, no matter what my circumstances may be?

- How does the blind man's life change?
- How do the people respond to him now that he can see?
- In what way are God's works revealed through him?

6. While there are lots of truths in this story, Rabbi Woody centered in today on what he called Jesus' startling statement to us: **We were born for this moment. It's this moment that we are to live. And there is grace and power enough to give us life this day.**

It's so simple it could be a bumper sticker. Or it is so profound that it could move us from darkness to light, from blindness to sight, from endless questioning to bounteous living.

Does it touch you in any way?

7. Besides calling us to live more powerfully, Woody says that the passage tells us that there is enough grace within us, no matter what our situations, to be able to help others. And it is often, actually, through our helping hands, that we continue to heal ourselves and grow in faith and grace.

Are there times when helping others has helped you feel better?

Are there church mission programs in which you have participated that have resulted in a better life for others?

Which of our church programs do you think bring healing and health to others?

8. Helen Keller said: "When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."

Does this ring with any truth for you?

9. Before Jesus performed the miracle of giving sight to the blind man, he said "I am the light of the world."

Why do you think he said this at this moment?

Do you think Jesus is the light of the world?