

October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday in Kingdomtide

The Bible Tells Me So? Half Truths, Clichés, and Other Misnomers

Today's Cliché:

**"Everything Happens for a Reason"**

**Scripture: St. John 9:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)**

<sup>1</sup> As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

<sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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## ~ SERMON NOTES ~

Everything happens for a reason becomes a catch-all phrase for saying that God is mysteriously behind everything that happens. In today's scripture the disciples assumed, as was common then, that when a person suffered physical challenges of some sort, in this case blindness, it was because of the sins of past generations.

There are some big takeaways that emerge for me that I would like to share:

1. Don't confuse the \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_.

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2. God's \_\_\_\_\_ are not necessarily God's \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. Understand that our \_\_\_\_\_ can blind us \_\_\_\_\_.

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