

WHO SINNED?

Our lesson text opens with a question that shows a misunderstanding of Ex.20:4-6 and the Fourth Generation Curse.

Question: “As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?**’ (Jn.9:1-2)

Answer: “Jesus answered, ‘**Neither.**’ “It was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (Jn.9:3-5)

This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the misunderstanding of Ex.20:4-6 and the Fourth Generation Curse.

The subject in question: “Who Sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?”

- 1. Once again, we see the doctrinal principle of the danger of a believer making false assumptions in the Christian way of life). We learned this principle from study of suffering life of Job.**

PRINCIPLE: False assumptions lead to false interpretations, which lead to false expectations and to false applications.

Notice that the disciples of Jesus learned this principle from the apostate Pharisaical teachings in our study of John chapter 9.

(Jn.9:16a) “Therefore the Pharisees were saying, ‘This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.’”

(Jn.9:34) “They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?’ So, they put him out.”

- 2. The consequences of the sins of a parent are not literally transmitted onto the child, not those of the child passed onto the parent.**

(Deut.24:16) “Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; **everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.**” (2 Kings 14:6)

(Jer.31:30) “**But everyone will die for his own iniquity;** each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.” [Passage of New Covenant]

No child or generation of children should ever think that they bear God’s judgment for the personal sins of their parents.

All personal sins are against God. “Against You, and You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.” (Ps.51:4; Luke 15:17)

- 3. The point of the Fourth Generation Curse of Ex.20:4-6, deals with the poor spiritual parental training of the child.**

Believing parents and grandparents are instructed to teach and train their children in the ways of the Lord (Ex.12:24-27; Prov.22:7; Eph.6:1-4; Col.3:20-21).

(2 Tim.1:5) “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”

(2 Tim.3:15) “And from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation, for training in righteousness.”

Another example of this principle was with the poor parenting of the High Priest, Eli with his sons (1 Sam.2-4 (2:27-36)).

Reflect upon the question of a Jealous God recorded in:

(Ex.20:4-6): “Why do you kick at MY sacrifice and at My offering which I commanded **in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by taking the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?**” (1 Sam.2:29)

The high priesthood was taken from the family of Ithamar and given to the family of Eleazor at end of David’s reign for Solomon (1 Kings 1:32- 35; 2:35).

4. The only sin that is passed on generationally is Adam’s original sin and it is passed on to all members of the human race through-out all of human history.

(Rom.5:12) “Therefore, **just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.**” (Rom.5:12-21)

(1 Cor.15:22) “For as **in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**” (1 Cor.15:45)

WHO SINNED? THOSE in Adam have all sinned (Rom.5:12) We refer to this condition as Imputed sin. What about the man born blind?

(Jn.9:3) “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**” (Luke 4:18)

(Jn.9:35-36) “Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’” “**Lord I believe.**”

Two forms of blindness were removed physically and spiritually.

(Acts 26:18) “To **open their eyes** so that they may turn **from** darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” (2 Cor.4:3-4)