

The Blame Game

When someone is ill, healthcare professionals want to discover the cause or causes and provide the best treatment available. Sometimes the cause is obvious, sometimes not. Often the cause of illness is complex, and every dimension of the person -- biological, psychological, spiritual and social -- can affect the person's health. See how Jesus and his disciples dealt with the cause and correction of a man's blindness.

Read John 9:1-7 (NIV)

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."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

A Nursing Assessment

- What do you think about the disciples' question at the beginning of the passage?
- What does Jesus say about the cause of the man's illness? What surprises you about how Jesus interacts with the blind man?
- Have you ever heard another healthcare worker tell a patient that an illness was caused by the person's actions or lifestyle choices – and you did not agree with that assessment? How did you feel when you heard this? How can you avoid making assumptions and placing judgment on others?

Applying the Bible to Nursing (*Find [more questions.](#)*)

- From a nursing standpoint, what do you learn from how Jesus responds to those who want to place blame for the man's blindness?
- What do you notice about Jesus' power from this story? How does this impact the way you view his authority over the health of your patients?

Putting Faith into Practice

- How is Jesus inviting you to respond to this story this week?

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](#)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.