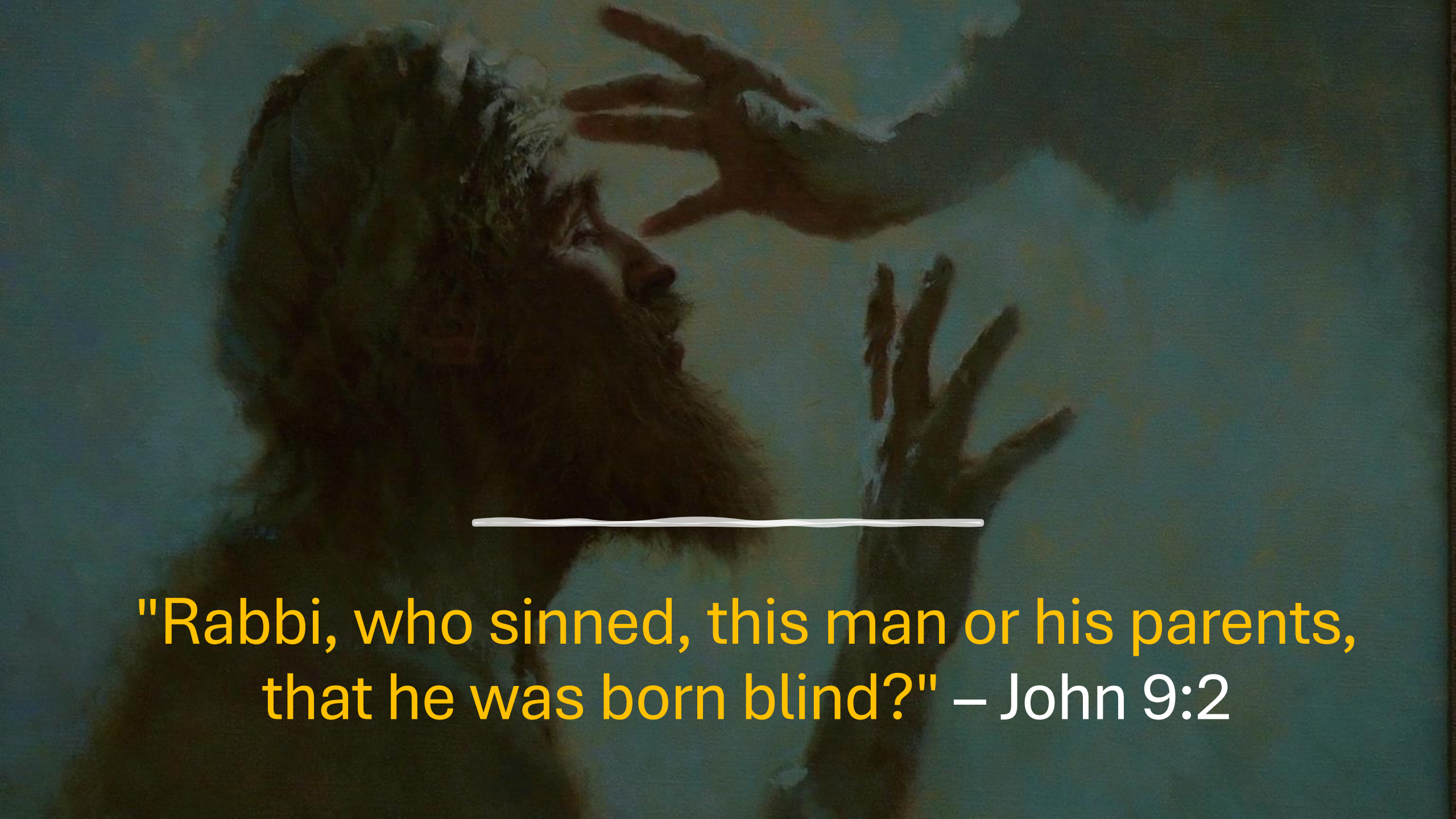




"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?" – John 9:2

The Sin of Blame (Part 2)

Blaming Others

3rd Sunday of Tuba



Why do we blame Others?

Evade Responsibility

- Adam blaming Eve
- Adam said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” (Genesis 3:12)
- “*Blame is the child of pride and the refusal to repent. Adam did not repent but sought to cast his guilt onto another.*” (St. Cyril of Alexandria)



Justifying our Actions

- Example: King Saul blaming the people
- "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord... because I feared the people and obeyed their voice." (1 Sam. 15:24)
- *"Fear of man often leads to sin, but the righteous fear only God, not seeking to justify their weakness with excuses." (St. Ambrose)*



Coping with Feelings of Inadequacy

- Example: Parable of the Talents
- "I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground."
(Matt. 25:25)



Unresolved Anger or Bitterness



- Example: Cain blaming Abel
- "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9)
- *"Envy is the root of blame and anger. He who envies his brother's good deeds brings ruin upon his soul."* (St. Basil the Great)

Deflection

- Example: Aaron blaming the people for the golden calf
- "You know the people, that they are set on evil." (Exod. 32:22)
- *"True leadership bears the weight of blame rather than casting it off on the weak." (St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on Exodus)*

Protect one's image and/or reputation

- Example: Pilate blaming the crowd
- "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."
(Matt. 27:24)



Victim Mentality

- Example: The Israelites between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army
- “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” (Exo. 14:11-12)

Fear of Consequences

- Example: King Saul blames the people
- “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.” (1 Samuel 15:20-21)

Fighting the Urge to Blame Others

Acknowledge my responsibility

"First accuse yourself, and you will be more just toward others."
(St. John Chrysostom)



Strive to forgive and show compassion

- "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col. 3:13)
- Example: Sts. Paul and Silas in Philippi (Acts 16)





Reflect on the Lord's Example

- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)
- *"In the face of unjust blame, Christ did not defend Himself, for love does not accuse but endures."* (St. Cyril of Alexandria)

Seek Counsel from a Spiritual Father

- "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."
(Prov. 11:14)



Focus on Reconciliation Instead of Fault

- "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matt. 5:9)
- *"The one who loves reconciliation loves God, for He is peace."* (St. Clement of Alexandria)

Summary

Why do we blame Others?

1. Evade Responsibility
2. Justify our Actions
3. Coping with Feelings of Inadequacy
4. Unresolved Anger or Bitterness
5. Deflection
6. Protect one's image and/or reputation
7. Victim Mentality
8. Fear of Consequences

Fighting the Urge to Blame Others

1. Acknowledge my responsibility
2. Strive to forgive and show compassion
3. Reflect on the Lord's Example
4. Seek Counsel from a Spiritual Father
5. Focus on Reconciliation Instead of Fault