

## MIRACLES OF JESUS

### PHYSICAL SIGHT - Mark 8:22-26

- A. Notes on Mark 8:22-26
1. Mark is the only evangelist who recorded this miracle.
  2. The miracle we will look at today is tied to Peter's confession in Mark 8:27-30 and Jesus' rebuke of Peter in Mark 8:31-33.
  3. The issue of physical sight is tied to spiritual understanding.
  4. After this miracle, the focus of Jesus' ministry was to instruct the disciples as to Who He is and why He came.
- B. A blind man was brought to Jesus to be healed (22), *And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him.*
1. Jesus and the disciples went to Bethsaida.
    - a. Bethsaida which means *house of fish* was on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee
    - b. It was the hometown of Andrew, Peter and Philip.
    - c. Later, Jesus would pronounce judgment on Bethsaida for its lack of response to His message and miracles which included the feeding of the 5,000.
  2. Friends of a blind man took him to Jesus.
    - a. They had possibly seen Jesus heal the deaf man.
    - b. Blindness was a common condition in those days due to the dust and intense heat.
    - c. Jesus' compassion for others encouraged them to seek help for their friend.
  3. His friends begged Jesus to touch the blind man.
    - a. Jesus chose to heal the man but did not do it in the way they asked.
    - b. His purpose for healing the man was based not only on compassion but on His reason for being there.
    - c. This miracle would be a teaching tool for his disciples who were blind, as well.
- C. Jesus took the man outside the village and ministered to him (23-26)
1. Jesus engaged the man through personal contact (23-24), *And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking."*
    - a. Jesus took the man by his hand to a place outside the village.
      - 1) The man's willingness to go with Jesus demonstrated faith by the blind man.
      - 2) Jesus did not want a spectacle where He was viewed as just a miracle worker.
      - 3) It is possible that some of the disciples went with them and all of them would receive instruction later from Jesus.
    - b. Jesus placed his spit on the man's eyes and laid His hands on him.
      - 1) A blind person is in a state of darkness where only hearing and touch can give any meaning.
      - 2) Blindness incurs a measure of danger and helplessness but Jesus gives of Himself.
      - 3) Jesus made personal contact with the blind man so he would know that it was Jesus restoring his vision.
    - c. Jesus involved the man through conversation.
      - 1) He asked the blind man if he could see anything.
      - 2) The man said he saw people but they looked like walking trees.
      - 3) Jesus has the authority and ability to heal the man immediately but He didn't.
      - 4) Here, we see that Jesus had compassion for the man's physical condition but His great concern was for the spiritual condition of His disciples which will become evident in a few moments.

2. Jesus completed the miracle (25-26), *Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."*
  - a. Jesus laid His hands on the man's eyes again.
    - 1) Now, the man could see clearly.
    - 2) Jesus developed a relationship with the man which brought clarity.
    - 3) Sometimes, spiritual sight is not immediate but it is a deepening understanding of and relationship to the Lord.
  - b. Jesus ordered the man to go straight home.
    - 1) The man had no ties to the village and no obligation to the people.
    - 2) His tie was to Jesus whom he could trust; the one who restored His sight.
    - 3) Why not obey what he was told to do?
    - 4) Trusting without knowing is faith and that is how spiritual sight is strengthened.

<b><i>SPIRITUAL INSIGHT - Mark 8:27-30</i></b>
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- A. Jesus asked His disciples several questions as they walked down a dusty road (27-29)
  1. *Who do people say that I am? (27-28), And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."*
    - a. The disciples responded with others' opinions like John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets, and others.
      - 1) All of these responses were incorrect and did not reflect what they had seen as they followed Jesus.
      - 2) These men had given up their work and their homes for a mystery man.
    - b. The blind man's process from blindness to physical sight would instruct the disciples in the process leading to spiritual sight.
      - 1) They had some spiritual insight but Jesus was preparing them for spiritual clarity.
      - 2) As the blind man needed a touch of the Master's hand, so now, the disciples would receive direct instruction.
  2. *But who do you say that I am? (29), And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."*
    - a. Only one disciple responded and it was Peter who declared, *You are the Christ* (Messiah).
    - b. Peter was correct in his declaration but now they would need to learn the true meaning of the term.
      - 1) All Israel expected the Messiah to be a liberator from Roman oppression.
      - 2) Jesus came to liberate men not from political but spiritual oppression.
      - 3) Christ, the Messiah, is not just a great leader but He is God the Son.
    - c. From this point forward, Jesus spoke directly to His disciples about His death and resurrection.
      - 1) Mark 9:31, *for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."*
      - 2) Mark 10:33-34, *...See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.*
- B. Jesus told them not to reveal His identity (30), *And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.*
  1. People did not understand what it meant for Jesus to be the Messiah, neither did the disciples, at this point.
  2. Jesus' present focus was on the disciples who needed to develop clear spiritual sight which would come shortly.
  3. John Grassmick, *From now on the underlying double question was, 'What kind of Messiah is He, and what does it mean to follow Him?' This crucial passage is the point to which the first half of the book leads and from which the second half proceeds.*

## ***SPIRITUAL MATURITY - Mark 8:31-33***

- A. Spiritual insight class is now in session (31-32a), ***And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly.***
1. Jesus revealed why Messiah was not a complete description of who He is.
    - a. He is not only the Son of God but He is also the Son of Man.
    - b. In Jesus' humanity, He would become our substitutionary atonement and that's why He said *must suffer*.
      - 1) He would suffer abuse and be rejected by the religious leaders for our sins.
      - 2) This probably did not sound like what they expected when they started following Jesus.
    - c. Hard decisions must be made by the disciples. If Jesus is correct, is He the one they want to follow?
  2. Also, Jesus said that He would be killed and rise from the dead three days later.
    - a. Most thought that Messiah would come and establish His kingdom but not be killed.
    - b. Was He serious when He just said He would rise from the dead?
    - c. He did say it *plainly* which means *with boldness and confidence*.
- B. Peter's response to His comments (32b), ***And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.***
1. Peter was probably speaking what most of the other disciples were thinking.
  2. Here, a creature is about to rebuke the Creator. The word used for *rebuke* is the same one used to describe Jesus silencing demons.
  3. Peter's limited understanding of Messiah was more palatable than Jesus' instruction.
- C. Jesus rebuked Peter (33), ***But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."***
1. Jesus turned back to the disciples as He rebuked Peter.
  2. He identified Satan as the one speaking through Peter.
  3. Spiritual growth demands that we release our opinions and accept God's instruction.
  4. Spiritual sight was a process for the disciples even as it is for us.

## ***CONCLUSION***

- A. I am thankful that Jesus is compassionate and cares about our physical needs.
- B. I am grateful that He cares about our spiritual condition.
- C. Spiritual maturity is a process which requires attentiveness to the leading of Christ through His word, prayer and the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- D. We must seek the touch of Jesus daily if we want to see clearly.