

Title: From Blindness to Sight (Part 2)

Passage: Mark 8:22-30

Introduction:

Question: Who do you think Jesus is?

Passage: Mark 8:22-30

And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 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." 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."

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." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Context of Passage:

Miracles

- Feeding of 5,000 (Jews)
- Feeding of 4,000 (Gentiles)

Different reactions to Christ

- Pharisees: blind, hatred
- Disciples: drawn to Jesus but unclear of His identity

Divine intervention needed

- Healing of deaf man
- Healing of blind man

EXPOSITION

Miracle of Healing of Temporary Blindness

Mark 8:22

And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him.

- man: blindness (likely was made blind after birth as he knew what trees looked like)
- Historical context: many potential causes of blindness as preceded many modern miracle cures
- Cultural reaction: blind people were considered "unclean" and ostracized
 - Even religious leaders shunned them.
- Man's friends: knew Jesus was different and brought the man to Jesus

Mark 6:56 (Jesus willing to touch sick)

And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Mark 8:23-26

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." 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."

Led him out of the village

- Why private?
 - Jesus knew the man's heart and took him away privately
 - It was the man's friends who led him to Jesus (man himself didn't seek Jesus)
 - Man was at a point of hopelessness
 - Jesus likely restored the man from within: giving him hope and a purpose for living
 - Spiritual example: Jesus leading people
 - Showing to disciples what Jesus had been doing.

He had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him

- Saliva: symbol of transfer of power from one to another

Do you see anything?

- unique question from Jesus
 - As Jesus was God, no second chances are necessary
- Why perform miracle in two stages?
 - Illustration for disciples: their understanding of Jesus was gradual
 - Disciples had some spiritual vision but it needed further sharpening/clarity.
 - Disciples needed more "touches" to see Jesus more clearly.
- Connect:
 - When you first place your faith in Jesus, our initial vision may be simple.
 - Starting Point: You are a sinner. Jesus is Christ. He died for your sins. You believe in Him, you will be saved
 - Over time, through diligent spiritual disciplines, we grow more in Christ with more clarity in our understanding and view of God.
 - We will see God perfectly when we come before His presence (whether in heaven or in Jesus' Second Coming).

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Peter sees clearly

Mark 8:27-29

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." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

- Highpoint of the Gospel of Mark
 - Mark 1:1: Jesus is the Son of God
 - Mark 1-7: Jesus beginning ministry as the Christ
 - Mark 8+: What Christ actually came to do

Who do people say that I am

- All people recognized that Jesus was a prophet from God.
- But they were unclear from where
- Moses? Jesus gave bread like Moses led in the desert
- Elijah? Prophecy in Malachi 4:5

Malachi 4:5

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

- Before Messiah comes, then a someone in advance like Elijah
- John the Baptist resurrected?

Who do you say that I am?

- crucial question for all of us

You are the Christ.

- Christ = The Messiah
- Old Testament repeatedly prophesies this perfect ruler with perfect justice to come.

Matthew 16:17

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

- How did Peter know? Answer: divine revelation

Mark 8:30

And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- Why keep the truth of Jesus as the Messiah quiet?
- It would be misunderstood for Jesus to be a political revolutionary to overthrow Roman rule.
- Truth: only when Jesus was wearing the crown of thorns and beaten did Jesus truly become the Messiah.

APPLICATION

Question: Who is Jesus to you?

- the most crucial question of your life
- Your life - both here and for all eternity counts on your answer
- Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, who came to save)

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you believe Jesus is the Christ who saved you from your sins, it is only by divine revelation that you are His.

- give God all the glory for any good in us.

John 1:12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- our lives are to worship God and bring Him glory.
- Give grace to others as we all are learning and growing in Christ.

We need to be like the blind man's friends, bring others to Jesus and beg Him to save them.

- A man who was helpless and hopeless, the friends begged and brought him to Jesus.
- In Christ, you know the cure and truth to a sinful world.
- True meaning is only found in Christ, come with me.

Romans 10:14-16

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"