

## **MARK 8:22-26 DOUBLE VISION**

### **INTRO:**

- **We find in these verses many potential lessons.**
  - **Jesus heals which confirms His Divinity.**
  - **We witness the compassion of God in Christ.**
  - **Sometimes healing is gradual.**
  - **We see the need for continued mercy.**
  - **And we see the discernment and judgement of Christ.**
- **We don't know how many folks met Jesus other than these friends.**
- **Bethsaida: "the house of fish or nets."**
- **Home of Andrew, Peter, Philip and perhaps Nathaniel.**
- **This miracle and the one just before it, the man healed of deafness and mute, (MK. 7:31-37) are only recorded by Mark.**
- **In both cases friends brought them to Jesus. Let's do the same.**
- **They also were both lead away from the crowds.**
- **So far in Mark, Jesus heals a deaf man, a mute man, a woman with a flow of blood, a man with a withered hand, a paralytic, a leger, and a multitude of unspecified diseases.**
- **He has cast out demons, raised a dead girl to life, however this is the first specific instance of healing a blind person in Marks gospel.**
- **In this culture it was assumed that blindness was a result of sin. (Jn. 9:2)**
- **In the recorded history of Jesus in the gospel, Jesus heals perhaps hundreds and perhaps even thousands of people,**
- **He still is healing today displaying the compassion of His heart, but he always kept and keeps His chief mission in mind, the healing of the sin sick soul. This was and is His eternal work.**

**THE SET UP: VS 22-23a; Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town.**

- **It is mentioned specifically that Jesus healed at least 7 men of blindness. Many more most likely as it mentions he healed multitudes.**
- **Our Savior often healed with a touch for He intended to show His compassion and to impress upon all the truth that the infirmities, the sickness, the disease, and the brokenness of this fallen humanity can only truly be removed and healed by contact with Him.**
- **These blind men were healed in different fashions; He touched them, He made clay with His spit, He spat directly into the eyes, and some with His word only.**
- **Jesus healed differently at different times according to the will of His Father and His purpose.**
- **He used a variety of methods lest we trust in the method and not God. We cannot reduce God to a method.**

- He had a specific reason and lesson to teach in all healings, but regardless of the method, men were healed.
- Notice that, like the previous healing, friends brought him to Jesus. These folks also asked of Jesus something, "touch him," heal him. But I believe this was out of concern for their friend, not for entertainment as the Pharisees did.
- This is the second time in Mark where Jesus uses spittle in healing.

**THE MIRACLE:** VS. 23b – 25; And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. <sup>24</sup> And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." <sup>25</sup> Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly

- It would seem that this man was not blind his whole life as he was able to identify a trees and what men walking would look like.
- If Jesus had willed, according to the will of the Father, He could have healed him with just a word and from a distance. This He had done before.
- He could have healed him completely with just a word.
- He needed not like Elisha in 2 Kings 4 to repeat himself because he lacked some power within himself to raise the dead child.
- This was all of God's plan and purpose. He is teaching, showing His disciples something.
- God did not complete creation in one moment, but in 6 days. Not because He lacked power, but it was His design.
- Creation was a process, completion day by day according to His good pleasure and will.
- Like creation He ordered the healing in this way both results were perfect according to His will. They were appointed for this end and purpose.
- His friends asked Jesus to touch him, the touch of Christ was so associated with healing that they needed only to ask Jesus to touch him.
- Many people miss that Jesus touched the man not twice, but 3 times.
- The first touch is often overlooked, He took him by the hand! What a personal Savior.
- He brings the man to Himself first. The man submits, surrenders.
- Away from the many unto the One.. Himself.
- The second two were to release the healing power according to the measure of God's will.
- Jesus then spits into his eyes and a process of sight began, which Jesus completed by His third touch, the second to the man's eyes.
- And notice after these touches Jesus commanded the man to "look up." As he obeyed, looking up, his sight was made whole.

**THE JUDGEMENT: VS. 26; Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."**

- **This man did not live in Bethsaida for Jesus told him to go home and not go through the town. If he lived in the town, he would have had to go through the town to get to his house.**
- **Jesus did not want the man, when healed, to go back through the town, nor speak to anyone from the town.**
- **Know this then about Bethsaida; Jesus had passed a judgement upon it.**
  - **Mt. 11:20-22.**
  - **Also notice the seeming degrees in judgement based on rejecting the blessings and working of God. (above, & Mk. 6:11)**
  - **Perhaps also degrees of glory in heaven. 1 Cor. 15:41b, 42a.**
  - **This is surely another warning to a people to not harden their hearts in unbelief. (Like 11-13)**
- **Jesus took the blind man out of town. Perhaps the reason lies in the fact that Jesus had pronounced a judgement on Bethsaida earlier. So, no more witness would be given them and no blessing would be given them.**
- **The purpose of signs was to bring people to repentance and belief, not to empty wonder and entertainment.**
- **Due to the hardness of their hearts and unwillingness to believe, Jesus has this man skirt, the town, and shun the town by not going through it or not speaking to anyone.**
- **They have rejected my claims as Messiah and Lord, I have shaken the dust from my sandals and taken my peace from them.**

#### **THE PICTURE:**

- **First notice **Vs. 18 & 21** having eyes do you not see.**
- **In what appears to be a two-stage healing, a picture of the blindness of the disciple's limited knowledge and understanding of Jesus and His mission:**
- **A picture of the work of God in the soul of man.**
- **A picture of who Jesus was, they saw Him daily, but not clearly, not as they should, but clarity was coming and one day it would be complete, perfect. Are we not all the same?**
- **Is our spiritual growth not like this man who when healed and beginning to see did not see clearly, perfectly.**
- **But at the second coming touch of Jesus, he saw perfectly, wholly.**
  - **1 Cor. 13:12; For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.**
- **Just as we have come to spiritual sight each different, but the end result is the same, healed, saved.**
- **This man though he had experienced something of the power of Christ and was under His authority, yet he needed a second touch, a deeper work on his vision, he could not, did not see clearly yet.**

- He had a type of veil over his eyes.
- This picture is certainly like us in many things and also like the dear disciples. They too did not see clearly at the first.
- For instance, they tried to keep Christ away from the cross, not seeing or understanding the necessity of Christ's death. (Mt. 16:22)
- Even after the resurrection they did not understand the purpose of Christ's resurrection or crucifixion, of the kingdom nor did they understand even after Pentecost their freedom from the Mosaic law or the eternal purpose of God to make the Gentiles partakers of Christ's salvation. (Act. 10:28, 11:17-18)
- They still remained a veil in some measure, upon their eyes and understanding.
- He also leads us into all truth.
  - Jn. 16:12, 13
- He Who has begun a good work will complete it; (Phil. 1:6)
  - Ps. 138:8a He will perfect that which concerns me.
  - And like Manoah's wife, Samons mother, who said, that God would not have revealed such great things unto them if He intended to destroy them. (Jud. 13:23)
- We are all spiritually blind when we first come to Christ, and it is by our repeated contact with Jesus that we gain greater spiritual insight, repeated touches of His Spirit.
  - 2 Cor. 3:18: But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- The God appointed race we are to run in this life is different for each of us, but the destination is the same, Christ likeness, holiness and heaven..
- 2 Tim. 4"6-9