

Mrk28 – **Seeing in Stages – Mark 8:22-26**

Mark often teaches in **TRILOGIES** –

Meaning – **TRIPLE** Lessons to **teach** a critical **Truth**

Last week – Mark **BEGAN** a critical **3-Msg - TRILOGY**

Today – we see Part **TWO**

Next week - we **Finish** with Part **THREE**

In **Part ONE** – **Last** Week – Jesus **PROVED** to the **Disciples**
they were **NOT seeing** with “**Spiritual Understanding**” yet

It was a **HARD** msg

because **Jesus** had to **shake** the **Disciples** (& **US**) **up**

So WE would **REALIZE** – that **maybe WE** are **NOT** seeing
with **FULL Spiritual Understanding** yet

So – **1st Msg** – Jesus **SHOOK** us up

& **FORCED us** to see our **OWN Spiritual Blindness**

In the **2nd Msg** today – **Jesus** is going to **show** us

That our **Spiritual Sight** – (our **Spiritual INSIGHT**)
comes in **STAGES**

We Develop Spiritual Sight – in STAGES

Then – in the **3rd msg** next week

Jesus is going to **show us**

there are **STILL MORE Stages**

For the **Disciples** - & **US**

to **be able** to **See Spiritual Things** – more **clearly**

So – we’ve got to remember – through all these messages
What God says to us in . . .

Isaiah 55:9 (NLT)

9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

The Good news today is
Jesus wants to give us “Eyes to See” – IN STAGES

[repeat]

Let’s Pray

Let’s start – with The Last Vs – of last week’s msg

Where Jesus asked his disciples – in Mark 8:21 (NLT)

21 “Don’t you understand yet?”

That was AFTER

The Feeding of the 4,000 – they Didn’t Understand

The Interaction w/ the Pharisees – they Didn’t Understand

The Boat Ride with No Bread – they Didn’t Understand

& Last week wasn’t the **ONLY time**

Jesus had “***pointed this fact out***” to his **Disciples**

In **Mark 4:40** – Jesus asked them
“Do you still have no faith?”

In **Mark 7:18** – Jesus asked them
“Don’t you understand either?”

In then in **Mark 8:18** (last week) – Jesus asked them
“Can’t you SEE? & Can’t you HEAR?”

AND - this was NOT the LAST TIME
that Jesus was going to ask

this same TYPE of Question to the Disciples

In each case – Jesus is pointing out to them - & to US
there is MORE Spiritual Sight – that we must gain

The Disciples Believed in Jesus
they were Following Jesus

But - In each of these cases – at some level
the Disciples were not seeing “Spiritually Clearly”

& So now - After all this NOT Getting it

Jesus is going to TEACH the Disciples
with what we could call - a PARABLE MIRACLE

& Jesus is going to SHOW the Disciples –
thru this PARABLE MIRACLE

that we Must Gain our Spiritual Sight
IN STAGES

& then – he is going to PROVE IT again to us –
Even Deeper - in Next week's message

Ok – Let's start in Mark 8:22 (NLT)

22 When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him.

Bethsaida is in the North-East Corner of the Sea of Galilee
Last week they were in the North-West Corner of the Lake

& so – to get away from the Pharisees
they had just sailed across the North End of the Lake

& they Landed at the Fishing village where
the Disciples Peter, Andrew, & Philip had all grown up

& this is where this Parable Miracle – Begins

As V.22 says - When they got to Bethsaida
Some FRIENDS – Brought a Blind Man - to Jesus

& The Friends play a vital role here

They brought this man to Jesus
& they BEGGED Jesus to touch him - & heal him

as he had for countless others in the Galilee area

Just as – maybe YOU'VE brought someone to Church
or someplace where they could MEET Jesus

& maybe YOU have begged the Lord in prayer
for a similar Immediate Spiritual Healing –

& that's really GOOD . . . But the Lord also has - a Special
"Teaching Purpose" for this particular blind man

& so we read in Mark 8:23(a) (NLT)

23 Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village . . .

Speaking of SEEING - What a SIGHT this is

The Lord of Heaven takes this blind man's hand
& leads him – & guides him - around all the obstacles

as he walked him to a place where Jesus could bring
his plan to pass in this man's life

THAT is an incredible "Sight to See"

This must've been a really COOL moment for this man

& then we continue reading in Mark 8:23(b) (NLT)

23 . . . Then, spitting on the man's eyes . . .

WHOA – Wait a minute – this man is on a
Tranquil, Peaceful Walk with the Lord of Glory

& suddenly Jesus stops Him
& SPITS in his eyes

OK – THAT seems weird, Right?

You guys can let us know
if you want us to use this method
when you ask us to pray for HEALING for you

But, Obviously – there's something else going on here

In the 1st century – the SALIVA of a healthy person
was actually considered Medicinal

& so – this would've been a GRAPHIC SIGN
to the man - & his friends – Jesus WAS going to heal him

So – with the 'Medicinal Sign' of the SPIT in the eyes

We read at the end of Mark 8:23(c) (NLT)

23 . . . he (Jesus) laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?"

Now – Don't MISS this - because this where
this man becomes - a Parable Teaching for the Disciples

Jesus had JUST Proved to the Disciples –
that they Weren't SEEING the Spiritual Side of things

& Now – Jesus is going to Demonstrate to them -
Thru this PARABLE-MIRACLE

what needs to happen - in their lives - & in our lives

they HAD seen Jesus – FULLY heal
countless people - with a simple touch

But this time he ASKS the person
if the HEALING WORKED (*How'd I do? Did it work?*)

That should've caught the Disciples Off Guard
& it Should catch US Off Guard

& it should CAUSE Us to ASK
WHY is this happening IN THIS WAY ?

& I believe – Jesus is TEACHING
Thru this Parable-Miracle
AND thru this TRILOGY of Msgs

That you & I – Are in Desperate NEED
For Continual Improvement in our Spiritual Sight

These 3 Msgs – are a Dramatic Reminder

that in Our Nature
we DON'T SEE – Spiritually Clearly

**BUT – HERE is the Good News
that we see thru out the N.T.**

AS we GROW in Christ

AS we Grow CLOSER to Him – Relationally

AS we KNOW HIM *better & better*

**He will continue to LAY his Hands on us
& IMPROVE – our “Spiritual Sight”**

But – The First Step

to being able to See Spiritually - more clearly

is to SEE the fact - that we DON'T SEE CLEARLY - Yet

**Once we OWN the fact – that we still have
some level of Spiritual Blindness**

**Then – we can enter a place - where Jesus can
lay his hands on us - & IMPROVE our “Spiritual Sight”**

Which is exactly what is About to HAPPEN - here

So again – in V.23 . . .

**Jesus led this man outside the Village
Spit on his eyes - & laid his hands on him**

& then Jesus asked him – “*Can you see anything now?*”

& we pick it up in Mark 8:24 (NLT)

24 The man looked around. “Yes,” he said, “I see people, but I can’t see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.”

Doesn’t that describe YOU – Spiritually - at some point?

*Yeah, I see there is something about Jesus
But I can't really see him Clearly*

*& I can Kinda See that God is doing something
But I can't really make it out*

*I hope you recognize this in yourself -
& I hope you recognize it in other people*

*Even when we CAN see Some Spiritual Things
at Some Level – to Some Degree*

*We Must Recognize – that we still need to
See Spiritually – More Clearly*

*We need this SAME CONTINUAL TOUCH from Jesus
for him to continue to OPEN our Spiritual Eyes*

Which is exactly what happens to this man, in

Mark 8:25 (NLT)

***25 Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again,
and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely
restored, and he could see everything clearly.***

Jesus is teaching a Spiritual Truth – THRU this Miracle

& we CAN - & we SHOULD

Be Praying for this SAME EVENT – in our own lives

*Lord, I WANT to see MORE CLEARLY
I want to see better - what you're Doing*

*Lord, I need your Spiritual Sight
MUCH MORE than my Natural Sight*

*Lord, please continue to Lay your Hands
on my Spiritual Eyes*

& help me – to Spiritually SEE – More Clearly

THAT is a Great Prayer - for us to be praying

*& then – to PROVE that this Miracle was meant primarily
To TEACH the Disciples this huge truth*

Mark 8:26 says (NLT)

***26 Jesus sent him away, saying, “Don’t go back into the
village on your way home.”***

*& so this final instruction to the Healed Blind Man
is CROWD control*

*This was a Personal Training Miracle for the Disciples
Meant to Teach a Critical Spiritual Lesson*

*& Praise the Lord – this man was Healed
in the process of this Parable-Miracle*

But – Here’s the deal for me today

It has really STRUCK me recently

*that we often THINK we see clearly
when it comes to spiritual matters*

But – can I tell you please

*we are ALL in the Same Boat – when it comes to
Needing Improved Spiritual Sight*

I heard a pastor tell a True story about his Father-In-Law
who was an AVID Ocean Fisherman

& so it naturally caught my attention

Old Man – Fishing – Ocean

I could see myself – Right there

Plus this Old Man was an Intensely Focused Fishing Fanatic
which also connects with me

1 day a friend asked – if he could bring
a couple of his friends with him on a fishing trip

To which the Old man said

if you're gonna bring some new guys fishing
you're gonna have to take care of them – (I can also relate)

& so the Old Man was at the dock early – before daybreak

He was busy getting the boat ready
when his friend and the these New Guys showed up

& so – as he was told
the friend took care of the new guys

getting them & their gear all in the boat
while the Old Man – finished up - & pushed off the dock

The Sun was just coming up when they got into open water

& as they did – a POD (School) of Dolphin
joined the boat as it was skimming along the water

& when they did - this friend - & his new guys
all started hooping & hollering about these dolphin

& the boat engine was running high & the Old Man
couldn't initially make out what they yelling

But then – as he was watching the dolphin & driving the boat –
he realized – these new guys were yelling

***Where Are they! Which Side of the boat are they on?
What Color are they? How Big are they?***

& the Old Man – who was “Direct” – like most Fisherman

Had Words Coming out of his mouth - AS he turned
for the first time - to focus on these new passengers

& the Sharp words – had already been spoken
“WHAT - ARE YOU GUYS . . . “

& just before he said that last word
he realized . . . His new passengers were actually BLIND

Shocked & Humbled – he went back to driving the boat

& as he did – It struck him
HE was the one who was Actually BLIND

& the truth is – in some way – at some level
everyone in that boat was Blind

& can I tell you please

Everyone that's in this boat with us here today
in some way – at some level – is Spiritually BLIND

& - the sooner we recognize that
the sooner we can begin - to BEG Jesus to open OUR Eyes

Just like the Friends of this Blind Man
Begged Jesus to open their friend's eyes

& as we Earnestly Pray

& as we Sincerely Seek God on this

Jesus WILL begin to Open our eyes

So that we CAN begin to see Spiritual Things - more clearly

& so – AS I close

Let me Briefly Mention – THE HOW

Here is the CONCISE SUMMARY – of HOW this happens

No matter where we are

in our Walk with Christ

Both The Beginning - of our Spiritual Sight

& the Continual Growth - of our Spiritual Sight

Comes from

the Presence of God in our lives

& from Power of God in our lives – ALONE

& so the Goal – VERY SIMPLIFIED

is to Increase the PRESENCE of God in our Lives

& to Increase the POWER of God in our Lives

& So – I want to talk to - & Pray with

TWO sets of people who are with us today

FIRST - If you have not

Truly put your Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior

& Truly Committed to Follow him as our Lord

If that's YOU today – please hear this vs

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NLT)

6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has

made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

Knowing the Glory of God –

& Being able to SEE - WHO Jesus Christ is

Comes from the God who CREATED Light
Shining that Light of life into your heart

ENABLING YOU to know the Glory of God
in the person of Jesus Christ

Which means - you Can't See the Glory of God
without God shining that light into your heart

Which is really GOOD NEWS

because that means you don't have to figure it out
& you don't have to have all the answers

all you have to do – is genuinely ask God
to Shine the Light of His Eternal Life – into your heart

& HE WILL Do it - & he will do it
thru the Person of Jesus Christ

Jesus will come into your life
AS the Light of Life from God

& he will give you Aternal Life
AND - Spiritual Eyes to See

So – Right now – I want to pray

With anyone who hasn't
Truly put their Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior

I want to pray with YOU FIRST
& then I'll come back & talk to everyone else

So – Let's Pray

Now – for those who HAVE

Put their Faith in Jesus Christ
& ARE Following Jesus as their Lord

I want to SHARE some Vs's with you – IN LOVE
& then I want to Pray again – to close

In John Ch 9 – Jesus is addressing
the Spiritual Blindness of the Pharisees

& believe me – you & I are PRONE
to having this same TYPE of Spiritual Blindness

& so we read in - John 9:39–41 (NLT)

39 Then Jesus [said], “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

40 Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?”

41 “If you were blind (truly), you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”

Please – don't EARN this same Judgement from Jesus

May we always recognize
our Natural Tendency to be “Spiritually Blind”

& May we always be praying
that Jesus would give us – Increased Spiritual Sight

By His PRESENCE and His POWER in our lives

May we always be praying

*Lord, whatever Spiritual Blindness I'm suffering from today –
Please Heal me of it*

*Please give me Eyes to SEE - & Ears to HEAR- & A Heart
RECEIVE – More of Your Spiritual Truth*

Let's Pray