

# KINGDOM COME



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## Was Blind, but Now I See

Community Group Study Guide: **Mark 8:22-38** –Week of January 28th, 2024

### 1. A Blind Man Healed Progressively

Jesus had just questioned His disciples, asking “Having eyes, do you not see?” They, after being with Jesus and experiencing His miracles, still did not “see” Him correctly. They still held to a misguided and misunderstood vision, that needed correction. This process of disciplining the disciples was ongoing, over and over again. We see in our passage once more people bringing their friends in need to Christ. They bring a man who is blind; who with his eyes cannot see. Jesus spits on his eyes, lays hands on him, and asks him if he sees anything. Strangely, the blind man sees an incomplete picture. He sees things, but not as those things truly are. Like the disciples, the initial touch of Christ brought vision, but that vision was still in need of further refinement. For us, we can learn that our vision as Christians is still continuously in need of sanctification. In this life, we know in part, but we still strive toward the perfection that will one day come. So, we should continue to humbly approach the Lord, confessing that we need our vision corrected.

### 2. A Blind Disciple Sanctified Incrementally

After healing the blind man, Jesus asked His disciples who the people say that He is. In response, they bring up prophets from the past; those who prepared the way for the Lord. Jesus followed up with the most important question for all humanity to answer... “Who do you say I am?” Peter, given a gift by the Spirit, responds by identifying Jesus correctly. Upon this profession from Peter, Jesus begins to teach them about what will come to pass. He tells them how He will suffer, be rejected, and ultimately will be killed. After Jesus had spoken plainly of the things to come, Peter pulled Him aside to rebuke Him. Jesus responds strongly to the rebuke. He tells Peter to get behind Him, for Peter’s actions are aligned with Satan. Jesus revealed the truth to the disciples so that their old ways of thinking could be correct. Even the disciples show their

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

We as Christians are saved by the finished work of Christ. However, we are continuously being transformed into the newness of life we have already obtained. This transformation process is ongoing, and requires us to accept the rebuke, refinement, and sanctification of God’s word. This growth is ongoing and incremental.

### Heart

Our hearts must the authority of God, and remain humble before Him. He has given us His word to prepare us for all He has called us to, but we must daily submit ourselves to His power and rule over our lives.

### Hands

Seek to know the Lord and His word. Approach scripture with a humble heart, asking the Lord to sanctify it. Willingly submit to the Word, especially when it contradicts our own thoughts or beliefs.

blindness, and their need to incrementally be sanctified.

### **3. Follow Christ with Eyes Wide Open**

After resetting the expectations of what His life and ministry would ultimately look like, Jesus turned to the expectations for His disciples. He tells them that the path to following Him looks like a man taking up a cross. If one of His disciples desired to keep his life, he first must lose it. However, these controversial statements are not without promise. Jesus reminds them that the stakes involved are not simple for life here on earth but for their very eternal souls. He contrasts how foolish it would be to focus on saving a temporary life, and in turn, forfeiting an eternal soul. Jesus does ask for faith; He asks for us to follow Him. However, He gives us the chance to follow Him, to have our eternal souls saved, with eyes fully open to consequences.

## Read Mark 8:22-38

1. In verses 22-26, Jesus heals a blind man. What is unique about this healing? How is it similar to the way we are restored by Jesus?
2. Throughout this passage, Jesus continues to rebuke, refine, and incrementally sanctify those around Him. Where is God implementing this process in your own life? What challenges and encouragements has it brought?
3. Jesus instructs the healed blind man to not tell anyone. Why might this be? Thinking evangelistically.... How do the miracles of Christ fit into our preaching of the Gospel?
4. In verses 27-30, Jesus asks the disciples questions to which He already knows the answers. Why does He do this? Why is the question in verse 29 the most important one of all? How does this question influence discussions with non-believers?
5. After attesting that He was the Christ, Jesus begins to teach the disciples about all that He must endure. Why did He teach them of His future (suffering) immediately after confirming He was the Christ(blessing)? What are areas in life where following Jesus has made life more difficult? What blessings has the Lord produced in those areas?
6. In one of the strongest rebukes given by Jesus, He commands Peter to get behind him. He refers to Peter as Satan. Why was Jesus so harsh? Why did He call him Satan? How does it show the value of all that Jesus would accomplish (His suffering, death, and resurrection)?
7. Verses 34-38 paint a clear and difficult picture for those who would follow Christ. Why is knowing the reality such a blessing? How is this passage both a warning and a promise of great joy?