



HOPE: When You Really Need A Miracle - Pt 3
Mark 8:17-29
Pastor Craig Coulter

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.
(Matthew 6:22-23 NIV)

PART 1: AN EMBARRASSING MISUNDERSTANDING

THREE BARRIERS THAT KEEP ME FROM SEEING LIFE CLEARLY?

1. My Pride

Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees.

2. Short Term Thinking

The disciples discussed why Jesus had said this and they decided it was because they hadn't brought bread with them!

3. Short Term Memory

Remember... the two miracles...?

PART 2: A PROGRESSIVE MIRACLE

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. (Mark 8:22)

THREE CONDITIONS FOR A MIRACLE

1. Miracles happen when **somebody cares**.
2. Miracles happen when we **get close to Jesus**.
3. Miracles happen when we **trust Jesus to lead us**.

Then Jesus spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, and then asked, "Do you see anything?" The man looked up and said, "I see people but they look like trees walking around." So Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes a second time. Then his eyes were opened fully, his sight was restored completely, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go back into town." (Mark 8:23-26)

THREE LESSONS ABOUT SEEING LIFE CLEARLY

1. My spiritual vision **grows in stages.**
2. The test of my vision is **how I see other people.**
3. Jesus heals my sight three ways:
 - My **focus** gets sharper
 - My **perspective** gets larger
 - My **vision** gets clearer

Teach me what I cannot see; and if I've done wrong, I won't do it again! (Job 34:32 NIV)

PART 3: A CLARIFYING QUESTION

Then Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say you're one of the other prophets." "BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?" Jesus asked. "Who do YOU say I am?" Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Messiah!" (Mark 8:27-29)

- **How I see Jesus** - determines how clearly I see everything else.