



Meeting the Messiah

I Can See Clearly Now

Week 27
July 13, 2025

Mark 8:22-26

LIFE LESSON:

It takes time to grow in understanding. Don't be discouraged but continue in God's Word to hear, then do what it says to gain understanding and clarity.

I. V. 22

The previous passage in verses 14-21 focuses on blindness and lack of understanding of the disciples. In today's passage Jesus is going to show that lack of vision, though sometimes slowly, can be abolished. Here some people bring a blind man to Jesus and beg Jesus to touch him. Blind people need guidance from someone to reach a new destination and here these people give guidance. We can better understand the phrase "leading someone to Christ" when we realize that lost people are blind to the truth. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 reads, "But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Since the blindness of lost people is a spiritual blindness, it can only be healed by spiritual means and that is the revelation of the gospel by the Holy Spirit.

II. VV. 23-25

Jesus personally takes the hand of the blind man and leads him outside the village. We do not know for sure why He took him away from the village, but it could have been the lack of belief of the people or to show the importance of an individual encounter with Jesus that we all need. Sometimes the work that God does in our lives will require that we are away from crowds and all the noise around us. The things that distract us need to be r

removed from time to time to focus and God and be able to meditate on what He has said to us in His Word.

In the Old Testament the laying on of hands usually had three purposes: the dedication of sacrifices to God, installing Levites into the priesthood, and as a means of blessing. The only instance in Mark of Jesus laying hands on someone for blessing is with the children in 10:13. The personal touch of Jesus is a reminder of the personal relationship that He desires and requires with us. Since mankind are sinful and cannot touch God, God came down to touch us. Coming to Christ is a sign that we know that He alone can do for us what we or anyone else can do and that He is willing if we will turn to Him in faith and ask Him.

We saw back on June 22nd where Jesus had used saliva in His healing of the man that was deaf and therefore had a speech impediment. Here again we see a similar situation but now it is for a blind man. This miracle is a true story in that it physically happened, but it is also parabolic in nature pointing back to the previous account in verses 11-21 where the disciples were not able to understand clearly what was happening. As Jesus laid His hands on the man, He asked him if he could see anything? The man said that he sees people, but they look like trees which of course means that his vision was blurry. Jesus touches him again and this time everything became clear as his vision was fully restored.

This miracle leads to a question and at least one misunderstanding. The question is, "Why didn't the man get fully healed the first time Jesus touched him?" The misunderstanding is that some people may interpret this as needing a second touch of the Spirit to be filled with the Spirit or have certain gifts of the Spirit. The answer to the question will also clear up the misunderstanding of the second touch of the Spirit than many denominations and people believe.

So why did Jesus touch him twice instead of completing the deed in a single touch? As we have seen throughout the gospel of Mark so far, Jesus reaches the physical needs of people to get to the greater need which is spiritual. There are miracles that Jesus performs to teach those in the crowd not just the afflicted person. We can look at John 11 where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and see an example of this. John 11:40 reads, "Jesus said to her, 'Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'" Also, John 11:42 says,

“I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.” The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead, among other things, was to show those around the tomb the glory of God and to prove that God had sent Jesus. In our miracle in today’s passage, Jesus was teaching His disciples a lesson also. Gaining sight and understanding may take a while walking with Jesus. After we are saved, we begin to grow in understanding of the things of God and in time things will become clearer. That is not to say that we will understand everything about God and His Kingdom on this side of eternity, but we will begin to see things more and more clearly.

Jesus made a reference to a passage in Jeremiah back in Mark 7:18. He was talking about having ears to hear and eyes to see but not doing either one of those things very well. So, with the healing of the blind man, Jesus shows how this can and will be improved. The second touch that Jesus gave the man had nothing to do with receiving multiple doses of the Holy Spirit to have charismatic gifts. The second touch was a reminder that once we are saved, we will have sight but for it to become clearer we must continue to spend time with Jesus. Our ears are filled with the Word of God and the eyes of our understanding will continue to grow clear if we spend time in the Word and apply it to our lives and live it out in our lives. We will see this take place in the lives of the disciples as they continue with Jesus and even more so after the Holy Spirit comes to them at Pentecost. This is an encouragement to those of us who struggle to understand the things of God but have a desire to. We can hear the words of Jesus in our Bibles and live them out causing our understanding and faith to grow.

III. V. 26

The man is sent straight home instead of back to the village probably so that the miracle is not over publicized as has been the routine of Jesus and His miracles so far. We don’t know much about the man or how he was living before or after the miracle, but we do see an example of how the disciples can come out of spiritual blindness with salvation and continue to gain clearer sight. James Edwards comments on the progress by writing, “His healing exemplifies the situation of the disciples, who move from nonunderstanding (8:17-21) to misunderstanding (8:29-33) to complete understanding

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. Can you name someone in your life that you know only by bringing them to Jesus can they be saved?**
- 2. Will you commit to pray for the person and then be willing to be the one God uses to bring them to Him by presenting the gospel to them?**
- 3. Are you in a relationship with Jesus for the long haul knowing that it will be progressional and that you will grow over time?**

(15:39). But only by the cross and the resurrection will they see things clearly. It is good that we can follow this path with them and watch their progress since we too can have the same experience. We can place our faith in Christ only because of the cross and resurrection and then we can begin to see more clearly as we continue to grow.

COMMENTARY USED:

Edwards, James R. 2002. *The Gospel according to Mark*. Grand Rapids; Cambridge: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.