

What Do You See?

Jesus Heals the Blind (Mark 8:22-38)



And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him.

Mark 8:22



- a. Jesus and His disciples came to Bethsaida.
- b. The people immediately bring Him a blind man, begging for healing.
- c. Jesus well known for His miracles. People sought Him out.



Comfortable people don't see their need for God.

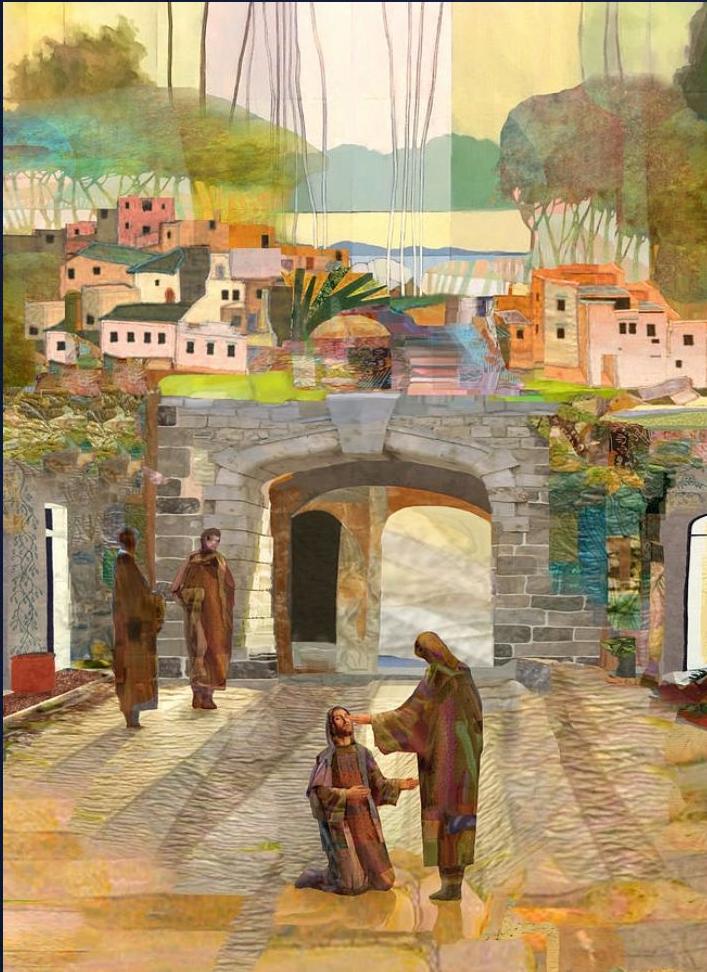
1. Luke 6:20 "And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."
2. Matthew 5:3 ""Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
3. Luke 6:24 ""But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."



And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

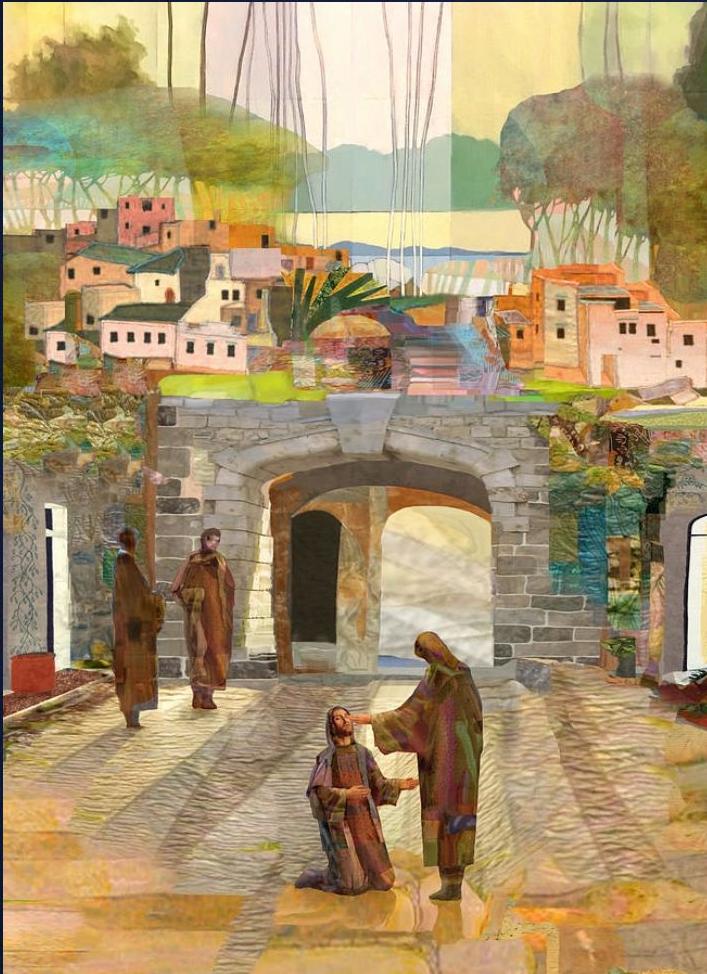
Mark 8:23–26





- Jesus takes the blind man and leads him out of Bethsaida.
- Jesus uses spit! Why?
- Jesus heals in two phases! Why?
- Translation,
Interpretation,
Application





“Do you see anything?”

- When God asks a question, pay attention!
- Blind man healed, but still not seeing clearly?



And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.”

And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

Mark 8:16–21





Jesus lays His hands on the blind man a second time.

- Now the blind man understands what he is looking at.
- “Do you not yet understand?”



Blind, Healed, Blind Again

The disciples struggle with Truth revealed.



And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

Mark 8:27



Another question.

Opportunity for reflection.



And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”

Mark 8:28



The crowd misunderstands.



Mark 6:14–16 “King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.



The crowd sees Jesus, but they don't understand who they are looking at.



And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Mark 8:29–30





Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ.

- Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."
- Another warning: don't tell! People won't understand the surprising Truth.
- Messiah we DIDN'T expect!



And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31





Peter's confession was sincere, but Jesus knew He needed to explain the fate of the Christ.

- Jesus was removing their “blindness”, but still they would not understand.



And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Mark 8:32–33



With a mind set on the things of man,
rather than on the things of God, we can
only follow in the footsteps of Satan, not
Christ!

- Lack of faith is NOT due to lack of
evidence.



The Cost of Discipleship

Jesus teaches the crowd — and the future Church!



And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34





"Deny himself. . ."

1. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"
2. Matthew 15:18–19 "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander."





"Deny himself. . ."

3. Proverbs 3:5–6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

4. Proverbs 4:23 "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

5. Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."





“Take up his cross. . . .”

- The second call is positive—you must deny yourself, but you must also actively pick up your cross and follow.
- Image of submission to authority!



For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

Mark 8:35



For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:36



For what can a man give in return for his soul?

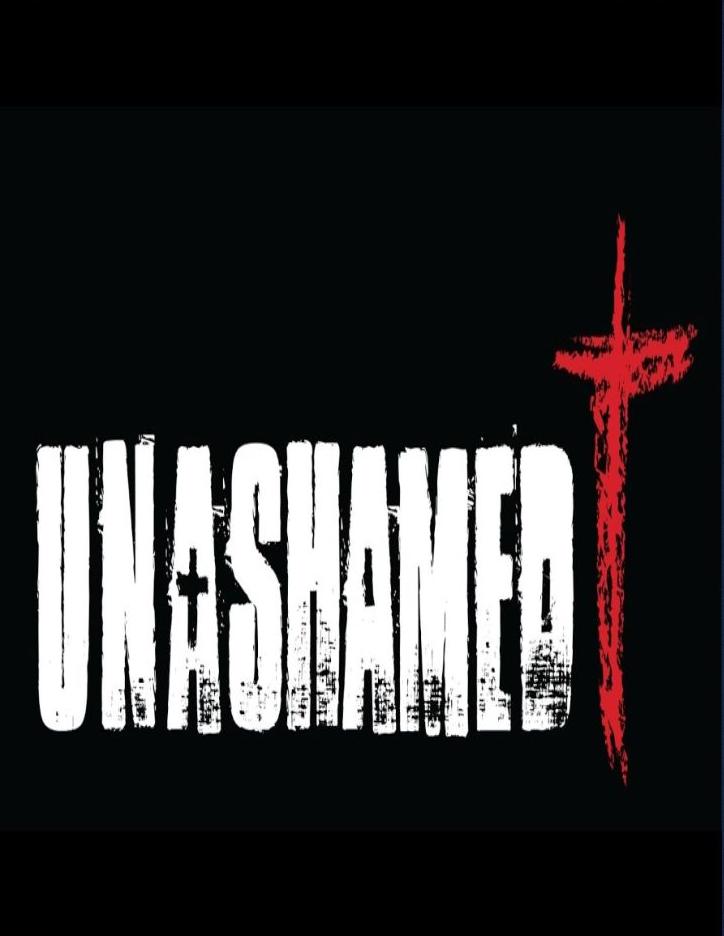
Mark 8:37



For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Mark 8:38





Romans 1:16, Psalm 119:6, Psalm 25:2-3, 1 Peter 4:16, Romans 10:9-10

- We must confess and believe. What Jesus teaches in today's passage from Mark is what true belief looks like. What true belief costs.
- Deny yourself. Pick up your cross. Be unashamed of the Truth.

