

The Blind Man Of Bethsaida Healed

Mark 8:22-26

This particular miracle follows the miracle of the **feeding of over 4000**, and took place in the town of **Bethsaida** (**verse 22**). This was a town on the **northeastern** shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. It was while here that a **blind man** was brought to **Christ**, and the people proceeded to plead with **Christ** to touch this man and heal him. This reveals that they had heard of and perhaps had seen the **healing power of Christ!**

The healing of this particular **blind man** is recorded only by **Mark** and is quite different than all of **Christ's** healing miracles. The main difference being in the character of the healing. In **Christ's** other miracles the person healed was restored immediately and completely. An example of this is found in the healing miracles recorded by **Mark** prior to this miracle:

- *The Demoniac In The Synagogue (1:25-26).*
- *Peter's Mother-In-Law (1:31).*
- *The Leper (1:41-42).*
- *The Paralytic (2:11-12).*
- *The Man With The Withered Hand (3:1, 5).*
- *The Demoniac Of Gadara (5:15).*
- *The Woman With The Issue Of Blood (5:29).*
- *The Raising Of The Daughter Of Jairus (5:41-42).*
- *The Daughter Of The Syrophenician Woman (7:29-30).*
- *The Deaf Man With A Speech Impediment (7:34-35).*

But when it comes to the healing of the **blind man of Bethsaida**, instead of there being an instant cure, there was a progressive recovery. When the **blind man** first received his sight he said "*I see men as trees walking*" (**verse 24**). **Christ** touched the

man again, and as a result “he was restored, and saw every man clearly” (**verse 25**). In this miracle, this **blind man** is brought from **darkness to blurred vision**, and then brought from **blurred vision to clear sight!** THIS WAS A INTENTIONAL PROGRESSIVE HEALING!

I. THE REASON FOR THE MIRACLE

① **The Significance Of This Miracle:**

There are other examples of **Christ** healing the **blind**, and it is quite clear that **Christ** could have healed this man instantly, by simply saying to him “*Receive thy sight*” He had done that in another case, and no doubt, He could have done it here, BUT HE DID NOT! What **Christ** did here, He obviously did with great **deliberation**, and with a set **purpose!** The manner in which **Christ** healed this man was not due to the extent of this man’s blindness, nor was it due to any inadequacy in **Christ!** CHRIST’S ACTIONS WERE ALWAYS DELIBERATE AND WITH PURPOSE! When **Christ** varied in His manner of healing, HE ALWAYS HAD A SPECIFIC REASON FOR DOING SO! All of **Christ’s** miracles are to be viewed as more than **events**, and more than mere **representations** of His power! EVERY MIRACLE PERFORMED BY CHRIST WAS DESIGNED TO TEACH SPIRITUAL TRUTHS! That this miracle, of the healing of the **blind man** is different than all the rest is of deep significance!

② **The Reason For The Manner Of This Miracle:**

In **verses 10-21** the **disciples** had gotten into a ship with **Christ** and had forgotten to take a sufficient supply of bread (**verse 14**). The result was that all they had with them in the ship was just one loaf, and they began to be worried about this. **Christ** speaking to them in the boat said “*Take heed beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod*” (**verse 15**). In response to **Christ’s** words we read “*And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread*” (**verse 16**). Because He mentioned the word “*leaven*” they thought He must be talking about bread! THEY WERE LACKING IN SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING, and thought that He was rebuking them for forgetting to bring bread! **Christ** then asked them nine questions (**verses 17-21**), ending with this: “*How is it that ye do not understand?*” (**verse 21**). He says in effect-“*I have been preaching to you and teaching you and yet you still do not seem to understand. You are troubled because you have only one loaf, and yet you have witnessed two miracles which prove that with just a few loaves and fishes I could feed 5000 or 4000 people*” “*How is it that ye do not understand?*” The problem with the **disciples** was that THEIR SPIRITUAL VISION WAS BLURRED! THEY DID NOT SEE CLEARLY!

- **The Manner In Which Christ Healed This Blind Man Was To Show The Disciples A Picture Of Themselves:**

In that ***blind man*** being **brought from blindness to sight** was a picture of themselves! When **Jesus** asked the blind man "***if he saw***" (**verse 23**) and the ***blind man*** replied "***I see men as trees, walking***" that was a picture of themselves in their failure to understand and see clearly the teachings of **Christ!** In that incomplete healing, **HE WAS GIVING THEM A PICTURE OF THEIR OWN CONDITION AND NEED!** When this partially healed man said "***I see men as trees walking***" it was as if **Christ** was holding up a mirror to **Peter James** and **John** and the rest. He was saying to them "**Now this is where you are. This is the spiritual state in which you are in today**"

○ *The Manner In Which Christ Healed This Blind Man Was To Show The Disciples Their Present Need:*

The **disciples** did not understand the clear teachings of **Christ**, they did not make a clear distinction concerning the teachings of **Christ!** They did not have proper focus, their vision was blurred concerning spiritual things, and this brought needless and foolish anxiety to their souls! They needed the same thing that this man needed when he said "***I see men as trees walking***" **WHAT THEY NEEDED WAS CLEAR VISION!**

II. THE APPLICATION OF THIS MIRACLE

① ***This Man In His State Of Blindness Needed The Power Of Christ Upon His Life:***

"***And He (Jesus) cometh to Bethsaida*** (for the particular purpose of healing a **blind man** and teaching the **disciples** a valuable lesson) ***and they bring a blind man unto Him, and besought (begged and pleaded) Him to touch him***" (**verse 22**). This man was ***blind!*** This man was in **darkness!** **THIS MAN NEEDED A MIRACLE THAT ONLY THE LORD COULD GIVE!** "***They bring a blind man unto Him and besought Him to touch him***" This should be very familiar to every ***child of God!*** **THEY BROUGHT A GREAT NEED TO CHRIST!** Notice what **Christ** proceeded to do with this ***blind man***:

○ *Christ Came Into Personal Contact With This Man:*

"***And He took the blind man by the hand***" (**verse 23**). Imagine how thrilled and excited this man's friends were when they saw **Christ** stretch out the hand of **Omnipotence** in **mercy, love, and grace** to their friend! When **Christ** takes the needy by the hand, He leads them into **blessedness**, and **makes darkness light** before them!

○ *Christ Would Deal With Him Personally And Privately:*

Christ, having taken him by the hand, "***led him out of the town***" (**verse 23**). When **Christ** takes needy sinners by the hand, **He does so to set them free!**

○ *Christ Brought Brought This Man From Darkness To Light:*

Christ, having taken this ***blind man*** by the hand, and having led him to a specific place, He "***spit on his eyes, and put His hands upon him***" (**verse 24**). It is important to realize that **Christ** was not bound to any one method and manner of healing! He could

heal with a **touch!** He could heal with a single **word!** He could heal with a **look!** He could heal with His **visible** or **invisible presence!** But, IF ONE IS EVER GOING TO BE BROUGHT FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT IT WILL TAKE THE POWER OF THE LORD! It is important to realize, that it was not the **touch**, or the **word**, or the **look**, or His **presence** that brought forth healing, but it was the **POWER** of those things that brought forth the miraculous!

② This Man In His State Of Blurred Vision Needed The Power Of Christ Upon His Life:

Christ, having touched this man “*asked him if he saw ought*” (**verse 23**). The response of this man “*he looked up, and said I see men as trees walking*” (**verse 24**). HIS VISION WAS NOT PROPERLY FOCUSED! This was descriptive of the **disciples** present condition, in their failure to understand the words of **Christ** clearly! There had been **total darkness**, but now there is **light**, and **color** and **movement** over him and around him! HE IS NO LONGER BLIND! HE DOES SEE BUT NOT **CLEARLY!** HE DOES SEE BUT NOT **DISTINCTLY!** He said “*I see*” but just like the **disciples**, he did not have enough sight **to be able to distinguish between one thing and another!** To be left in such a state would result in great **confusion**, great **uncertainty**, and poor **judgment** and **decision-making**, and **fear**, and a loss of **enjoyment**! Those who have been truly saved by the grace of God, those who have experienced **Jesus Christ** personally **coming to them, taking them by the hand and leading them out, and opening their blinded eyes** THEY DO SEE SOMETHING! But with many of these, something is terribly wrong with their vision! THEY DO NOT SEE CLEARLY, and as a result, there is **confusion**, **uncertainty**, and **fear!** THIS WAS THE CONDITION OF THE DISCIPLES! “*I see men as trees walking*” What this man needed was the **Omnipotent touch of Christ!** Christ **touched** him yet again, “*After that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made (caused) him to look up: (the result), and he was restored, and saw every man clearly*” (**verse 25**). The man, being brought from **from darkness to blurred vision**, and then brought from **blurred vision to clear sight** is sent home (**verse 26**). He no doubt returned home enjoying the **wonder and marvel of clear vision!**

Christ healed this **blind man** in stages; and in doing so revealed to His **disciples** their great need! They had been brought **from darkness to light**, but they lacked spiritual understanding, THEIR VISION WAS BLURRED, and now they needed to be brought **from blurred vision to clear sight**, AND SUCH WOULD REQUIRE THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF CHRIST!
