

## **The Miracle that Took 2 Tries (Mark 8:22)**

Over the years we have had many breakthroughs in helping people gain better eyesight. Our lesson today will be about how to improve our spiritual vision. In Mark 8:22 we have one of the most unusual miracles Jesus ever performed.

“He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, ‘Do you see anything?’ He looked up and said, ‘I see people; but they look like trees.’”

It took Jesus TWO tries to heal this guy! What happened? Did Jesus have a power glitch? Or, just maybe Jesus is trying to teach us something. Today we are going to try to understand a little bit more about the ways of Jesus. I cannot tell you with absolute certainty why Jesus did the miracle in this way, but I will offer some insights that can improve our spiritual eyesight.

### **I. Jesus wants us to be with people who will grow our faith.**

Notice what happened before the miracle. Jesus took the man by the hand and led him outside of the village (vs. 23). After receiving his sight, Jesus said to the man, “Don’t return to Bethsaida.” Why would Jesus heal this man outside of the city and then say, “I don’t want you to go back there?”

The answer is found in Matt 11:21. Jesus cries out, “Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

Bethsaida was not a good place to be healed because it was not a place of faith. Where should a Christian go to improve their faith? I think Jesus is telling us, if we want God to have an impact on our lives then stay away from places like Bethsaida. We need to be around people who will help increase our faith (Heb 10:25).

Heb 10:25 says, “Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

### **II. Jesus wants us to have spiritual sight:**

All throughout the ministry of Jesus the disciples are partially blind. They are blind to what Jesus came to this earth to do. In verse 18 Jesus asked, “Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?” In verse 21 Jesus asked, “How do you not understand?”

Three times Jesus declares His mission and on all three occasions, the disciples demonstrate their lack of understanding. Jesus wants us to see with eyes of faith.

Heb 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

2 Cor 5:7 “We walk by faith not by sight.”

2 Cor 4:4 says, “The gods of this age have blinded those who do not believe.”

In Rev 3:18, Jesus said, "anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."

In Eph 1:18 Paul says, "I pray that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling."

### **III. Jesus does not want us to see people as trees.**

The Apostles had a hard time seeing people the way Jesus sees people.

In Matt 15, there was women who cried out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." The disciples urged the Lord saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

In John chapter 4 we see it again. When Jesus was talking to the Samaritan women the disciples were shocked. Verse 27 says, "They marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or "Why are You talking with her?"

When Jesus looked at people, He saw individuals who were lost. He saw people who had problems in their life, but how did the disciples see those people? They were like tree's walking around. How do we see people? Do we see people the way Jesus sees people?

#### **Close:**

How well do we see and understand Jesus? I believe that's the purpose of this unusual miracle.

Before we close, I want to give you an eye exam.

John 3:3, "Unless one is born again, they will not see the Kingdom of heaven."

Heb 12:2, "Looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith."

Titus 2:12, "We should live discreetly, righteously and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."