

The Blind Man Of Bethsaida (Mark 8)

In Mark 8 we read about Jesus healing a blind man from Bethsaida. Of all the miracles of Christ this one is unique - it demands our consideration. It is the only miracle recorded in the gospels that actually took place in stages. After Jesus touched the eyes of the blind man his sight was restored – but only partially. When the man looked about, his eyesight was hazy and distorted. He saw “men like trees walking.” Then Jesus placed His hands on him a second time. This time the man's eyesight was completely restored. He could see clearly.

With every miracle is a message, and in this unique two-part healing is an important spiritual application for our lives. Let's consider it, and also find out how Jesus can open our eyes to see Him more clearly.

“One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see” (John 9:25).

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. JESUS DISCIPLES WERE SLOW TO LEARN AND QUICK TO DOUBT (V1-21)

- The feeding of the four thousand was similar to the feeding of the five thousand (Mk 6), but differed in a number of ways. Compare the two accounts and note the differences.
- See v4. Why did the disciples ask Jesus this question? Had they forgotten the feeding of the five thousand?

B. THE BLIND MAN OF BETHSAIDA IS SYMBOLIC OF THE SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS OF MAN (v22-26)

- Most people on earth today do not know Jesus. *John 1:10, “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”*
- Christ has the power to illuminate the eyes of our spiritual understanding (Eph 1:18)

C. JESUS DISCIPLES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST (V27-33)

- The word “Christ” (*Christos*) means “The Anointed One” or the Messiah.
- The Old Testament prophets prophesied that the Messiah would open blind eyes.

D. JESUS DESIRES US TO FOLLOW HIM BY DENYING OURSELVES AND THE WORLD (V34-38)

- Verses 34-35 describe the “Normal Christian Life.”

CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

In the same way that Christ cured the blind man of Bethsaida, He is able to open the eyes of our spiritual understanding. Many Christians have never realized this need in their lives. *Have you?* **Ephesians 1:15-21** is a prayer for spiritual enlightenment. Why not make it your personal prayer?