



“DO YOU SEE ANYTHING!?!”

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
 - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
 - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
-

Mark 8:22-26

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

Blindness was one of the great medical curses of the Middle East. We find Jesus taking a blind man by the hand and leading him out of town so He could deal with him privately. The healing of this person is recorded only in the book of Mark and it is the only miracle that Jesus performed which happened gradually. In this miracle the blind man's sight came back in two stages. After the first touch he had only limited vision, but after the second touch his eyesight was restored completely.

How good is your vision? In physical terms this is an easy thing to find out - in spiritual terms it is not always so easy. How well do you see and understand Christ?

No man sees all of God's truth all at one time. One of the dangers of much of the evangelistic teaching today is that it encourages the idea that when a person has made their decision for Christ he/she is a full-grown Christian. Another danger that permeates our churches today is there is more emphasis put on church membership, standing and status than discipleship, transformation and growth. Church membership is actually presented in such a way as to imply that when a person becomes a member of the Church he/she has come to the end of the road; when actually becoming a Christian and Church membership are only the beginning of the road.

INTRODUCTION:

This is one time in scripture when Jesus performed a miracle in someone's life that was not complete. Have you ever thought about why he did this? When you read the whole chapter – this story actually fits. **The whole chapter is about people that see – but don't really see!**

The chapter opens up with Jesus having just fed the 4000 (Vv. 1-9). When they leave He warns the disciples against the “yeast” of the Pharisees (V.15), but they don't understand what Jesus is saying. Jesus asks them about the feeding of the 5000 and 4000 and asks the question, (Vv. 17-18) *"Do you still not see or understand... Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?"* The disciples are even struggling. Jesus asks them in verse 27 – who do men say that I am? In verse 29 – who do YOU say? The issue seems to be about clarity. Prov. 4:5a. *"Get wisdom! Get understanding!"* Prov. 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."* The disciples saw in part, but they had not yet grasped the full truth.

Like the disciples, I contend that many of our churches within the continent of these United States as well as around the globe are filled today with people who see only part of the whole. They are attracted to Christ for many reasons (healing from damaged emotions, intellectual assent of truth, traditional feelings) and yes they obtain sight. But just getting saved, calling yourself a Christian and sitting in church is **NOT ENOUGH!**

For what has happened to too many believers in the body of Christ, is they have formed a pre-conceived notion of “the Christ”, thus I believe every now and then He desires to shake us up and speak to us like he did to the disciples and Peter in V.33 of this same chapter when he said, *"Get behind me, Satan!...You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*

In other words Jesus is saying, *"I refuse to fit into your molds of whom or what you think I AM! – Don't get it twisted..."*

One commentator described much of Christianity this way, **“People seem to know enough about Christianity to spoil their enjoyment of the world, and yet they do not know enough to feel happy for others or about themselves... they see, and yet they do not see”**.

I wonder if there is anyone here who wants to really see!?! Don't fool me now...I'm not talking about coming to see the preacher, the choir, the deacons, family or friends...coming to see what's going on or to keep an eye on everything... **BUT is there anybody here who would readily admit, “Lord God – I want to see you. I am seeing a lot things around the world and even in the church, but I don't feel like I am really seeing you!”**

BIBLICAL STUDY:

So what needs to happen if we want to see Him!?!

If you look at the text, it is safe to say that those who brought this man to Jesus had a **pre-conceived notion** of what happened when Jesus touched someone. For V.22 says – they actually begged Jesus to "**touch him.**"

Jesus reached out his hand... Everyone held their breath...Nothing happened...Except that Jesus led the man out of town.

Which brings me to my first point...

I. WE MUST BE RELEASED FROM THE EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS.

The truth is – things may not happen for me or for you like they happened for others. What Jesus wants to do in your life or mine is unique.

Questions like “How are others doing it?” and “How did it happen in the past” will cause us to serve too small a god.

In other cases Jesus simply spoke as with Bartimaeus there is instant healing (Luke 18:35-43). In John chapter 9 there is a man born blind in chapter 9 verse 6 Jesus uses spit mixed with dirt as mud and after the man washes in the pool he can see. This is the only story in which there is partial healing. Certainly Jesus had the power to heal the man completely, but there was a lesson to be learned - a case study for the disciples and us today.

Jesus is trying to break Co-dependency...too many co-dependents in the church! Too many people depending on other people to read and study, because they don't have time, depending on other people to pray because they say they don't know how, to even praise and shout for them because they say it doesn't take all that...

Too many people are seeking favor and value from other people, instead of God.

How frightening it must have been for this man to walk out of town with a total stranger. There is no record at this point that the man has had any part in this. He has not asked to be healed.

Brings me to my 2nd point –

II. WE MUST TRUST JESUS TO LEAD US INTO THE UNKNOWN.

Even after Jesus had not healed him instantly – he still trusted Him enough to let Jesus lead him.

(ILL.- You see right through here the problem compounds itself for if you don't release yourself from the expectation of others, then when they tell you what Jesus did for someone else and it doesn't happen for you, then you are prone now maybe to believe that Jesus doesn't love you the same. I mean Jesus just spoke to Bartemaus and he was healed instantly...Hmmm there must be a problem). So what do people do...they stop believing, they stop trusting, they stop hoping, they stop participating, they stop coming to church, eventually they stop living and are merely existing!

Then Jesus did something very strange. After he had the man alone, he spit on the man's eyes. I looked at this throughout the scriptures. There wasn't anything polite, or complimentary about this act ... It was then, just like it is today – a sign of disdain.

So here's a 3rd point –

II. WE MUST NOT BE OFFENDED WHEN JESUS DOES SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY.

John 6:66-69 *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 68 We have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

I think the biggest problem for most people in the body of Christ – is we give up on Jesus too soon! You notice I said, “We”. That's from the pulpit to the door. We miss the miracle or miracles in our own lives because we're trying to get what somebody else has, or get it the way they got it, and when it doesn't happen like we're convinced it should... we get upset, angry, saddened and troubled! We don't get it...it just doesn't make any sense, so *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”* Don't be fooled by church attendance, for there are many who have gone back and walk with Him no more and still coming to church Sunday after Sunday after Sunday. So realizing affect they might have on you, Jesus is asking, *“Do you also want to go away...do you want to leave too?”*

I would love to tell you that I knew why Jesus spit on this man. I've done some research trying to discover the answer, and I finally came to the conclusion: I don't know why.

IS there a WHY? Does it matter? I'm sure Jesus had a particular reason for doing it that somehow factors into this miracle.

Here is what I'm realizing day by day and that is – I may never understand the significance of many things that He does in my life. But I do know that He loves me and that He cares...and I have to accept His love for me – and not be offended.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus touched the man, and a miracle took place. But it was only a partial miracle. Jesus asked him the question, “*Do you see anything*”?

Now Jesus already knew the answer He just wanted the man to talk to him. Now I looked at other instances in the Bible where Jesus healed blind men. In the instances that he healed them instantly – they themselves had worshipped him and asked him to. In the instances where he healed them gradually – someone else had done the asking. But Jesus wants to remind us today that he wants us to be involved in the process...

I cannot necessarily explain it – but throughout the Bible there is this inseparable bond between the heart and the mouth. There is a connection between our faith and our confession.

That's why Jesus says “I know what you need before you ask” – but he still says “Ask”.

I know there is a lot happening in and around your life, but “Do you see anything!?!”

I love this text, because this man was brutally honest. He didn't say like so many today often say (esp. in public), what we think others will want to hear. Sometimes we're afraid of saying anything but “faith words” - as if God is somehow "fooled" by what we say into thinking that there is faith in our heart...

The Bible says this man looked up and said, “I SEE MEN AS TREES WALKING!”

Here's my real message today. **I SEE MEN AS TREES WALKING.**

There is a strength that lies in understanding that God uses time in revealing His person, His purpose and His plan.

When things don't happen as quickly as we think they should – we have a tendency to:

- second-guess our own value
- become disillusioned and give up
- compare ourselves with others, seek the commendation of others
- try to convince ourselves that we have it all (that men actually DO look like trees)

In all of these – there is a danger that we will:

- turn our back on him in anger and leave
- become satisfied and stay where we are

I believe, with all my heart – that God has something more for you, me, our church and the Church Universal. So we must forget about what other people expect from us. We don't know exactly where things might be headed, but we know that He is holding our, and we are going to trust Him and be honest in our relationship with Him.

“I'm not what I was – but I'm NOT what I will be...”

I only have HALF of the miracle I expect for my life... I SEE MEN AS TREES WALKING!

That's why we keep coming to church, that's why we keep studying, that's why we keep praising, that's why we keep worshipping, because we want to see more of Him each day of our life. More revelation of His love, more of His power and Presence in us! We seek the touch of God for healing of vision in our lives. Amen!!

Let me give you an eye test. Instead of putting your hand over one eye and reading a letter on a chart, put your hand on your heart and read these words of Jesus;

Mark 12:30 *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Matt 6:33 *“seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you”*