

Reflection Questions: How am I like the disciples and their continued failure to see and understand who Jesus is and what His mission is? Where am I deaf and blind to what God is trying to teach me? How can I show Jesus' compassion to those around me? Am I praying *Ephesians 1:18* for myself and for those in my church?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

*Our God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.*
William Cowper

The discovery of the riches of Christ are inexhaustible. If a man lived a hundred, or a thousand, or a million years, he would still have to go on growing in grace, and learning more and more about the infinite wonder and beauty of Jesus Christ.
William Barclay

All that you need to admit is the fact of your spiritual blindness and He will come in His mercy and make you see.
Alistair Begg

The blindness of unbelievers in no way detracts from the clarity of the gospel; the sun is no less bright because blind men do not perceive its light.
John Calvin

As a blind eye shuts out natural light, so an evil heart shuts out spiritual light.
A. W. Pink



Blindness, Part 2

Sermon
Notes

June 4, 2023

1. The Setting (22)
2. The Problem (22)
3. The Healing (23-25)
4. The Aftermath (26)
5. The Meaning

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. How does *Mark 8:22-26* fit in the immediate context (*Mark 8:14-21, 27-33*)?
3. What similarities do you see between this healing (*Mark 8:22-26*) and the one in (*Mark 7:31-37*)? What differences do you see? What is significant about the differences?

Is it significant that these are the only two healings that Mark mentions and no other gospel does? Explain.

4. Why does Jesus take the man outside of the village (*Mark 8:23*; cf. *Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 10:13-15*)?
5. Three times we read that Jesus touched this man (*Mark 8:23-25*). Why is this important?
6. Why does Jesus use His spit in the healing of the deaf-mute (*Mark 7:31-37*) and this blind man of Bethsaida (*Mark 8:23*)?
7. What is the purpose of Jesus asking, *Do you see anything* (*Mark 8:23*)?

How does this question connect with *Mark 8:14-21*?
8. Why does it take Jesus two tries to perform this healing (*Mark 8:23-25*)?

Was this a particularly hard case to heal? Was Jesus unsure of how much power it would take? Did He fail the first time? Was He surprised by the half healing?

Was there a specific purpose to this two-stage healing? If so, what?

9. Jesus tells the healed man not to return to the village (*Mark 8:26*). Why?
10. What is Mark highlighting throughout this section of Mark (*Mark 7:31-8:33*)?
11. Does Jesus always heal in the same way? How does He heal the blind men in the following verses?
Matthew 9:27-31 — *Mark 10:46-52* —

Mark 8:22-26 — *John 9:1-7* —
12. What does the fact that Jesus can heal the blind tell us about who He is (*Psalms 146:8; Isaiah 29:18-19; Isaiah 35:4-6*)?
13. What do the following Scriptures teach about spiritual understanding?
Isaiah 42:16, 18 — *Mark 6:52* —

Isaiah 43:8 — *1 Corinthians 2:14* —

Matthew 13:15-16 — *2 Corinthians 4:6* —