

"Seeing Clearly"
Mark 8:22-26 (NIV)
Pastor Robert Brandhagen

²² **They came to Bethsaida,**

Matt 11:21-22

and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

There is a kind of blindness described in the Bible that is *not* the lack of physical eyesight:

John 9:40-41

Matt 15:12-14

Rev 3:17

2 Cor 4:4

There is a kind of blindness described in the Bible that *is* the lack of physical eyesight, such as in our passage today.

Are you such a good friend as we find in Mark 8:22? The NIV calls these friends simply, "Some People." They brought the blind man to Jesus for healing of his physical problem, his blindness. And they not only *brought* him; they also *prayed* hard for him.

Do you bring spiritually blind people to Jesus *AND* beg Him to touch them? This is evangelism.

We tend to emphasize bringing people to Jesus—giving them the Good News of Jesus—and that is good. But we need to go a step farther like the friends of the blind man did. They did not just bring the blind man to Jesus; they also begged Jesus on behalf of the blind man.

²³ **He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village.**

Exodus 4:11

Lev 19:14

When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

John 9:6-7

²⁴ **He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."**

To understand this passage to have to go back at least to the immediately preceding passages (8:1-21).

Jesus' partial healing of the man's blind eyes, and the man's partial sight parallels the partial spiritual understanding of the disciples—including us!

²⁵ **Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.**

Jesus' completed healing of the man's eyes, and the man's completed sight parallels the full spiritual understanding of the disciples—including us!—though that full understanding must wait for the eternal state.

1 Cor 13:12

²⁶ **Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."**

Luke 17:14

Matt 9:6

Luke 8:39

Do not neglect to go home after Jesus does a great work in you. Go home to get alone with God and meditate on His word. Go home to tell your family all about it.

Isaiah 35:5-6

Luke 7:18-23

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: A partial, then full healing of a blind man *by* Jesus points to our partial, then full understanding of Jesus (influenced by the *Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

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