

Mark 8:22-26

Did Jesus make mistakes? Was He, limited by His humility, ever caught unable to get something right the first time? This is the charge that many modern scoffers have when they approach our text today. In our text, is it that Jesus didn't do something right the first time...or is something more going on here? Let's dig into the text

- I. The scenario – 8:22-25
 - a. Jesus comes to Bethsaida and the people brought a blind man to Jesus and asked for Him to heal him.
 - b. He takes him aside, and spits on his eyes, puts his hands on him and asks what he sees.
 - c. Now comes the controversial part (for some) – Mark 8:24
 - d. Now, Jesus must put His hands on him again to restore fully his sight.
 - e. Jesus sends him away and says to not go to town or tell anyone (probably because of their rejection of his miracles before). He does so because there is not a lot of fanfare.
 - f. Question: Mistake or Something else?
- II. I submit something else
 - a. In my CGI class I am taking, it was said that sometimes the key to unlocking a text comes, not from the text, but from what is going on around it. It is there we find a very interesting flow of things that deal with blindness and seeing or not seeing
 - i. Jesus feeds the 4 thousand – Mark 8:1-10 (Something was seen)
 - ii. The pharisees ask for a sign to see – Mark 8:11-12
 - iii. The Disciples were told to watch out for the Levin of the pharisees and they thought it was because they didn't have bread – 13:21
 - iv. Now this man is healed – our text
 - v. Peter later declares that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God – Mark 8:27-30
 - b. Notice that each of the parts, there is a need for sight. We need to see perceptually, mentally and spiritually.
 - c. It is important then to ask, "What group do we fall into?"
- III. Group 1 – Perceptually, Mentally and Spiritually Blind
 - a. These were the pharisees – 8:11-12
 - b. It is amazing that they SAW the loaves and fish
 - c. Yet they came out and said what they did in 8:11.
 - i. They wanted a sign to see.
 - ii. Yet they ignored the sign that was given
 - d. Are we in this group?
 - i. I will not believe until I see proof (sign)!
 - ii. The signs are there as we will see.
 - iii. The question is, are you seriously looking or just challenging?
 - iv. If we are seriously looking, the answer is there.
- IV. Group 2 – Perceptually and Mentally see – Spiritually Blind
 - a. This was the Disciples – 8:13-21
 - b. They saw the Loaves and fish
 - c. They knew Jesus was indeed a great teacher, and rabbi.
 - d. However, they still did not perceive that Jesus was more than that

- e. Therefore, Jesus asked what He did in **8:17-21**
 - i. Not speaking to not mentally knowing Jesus
 - ii. But not spiritually knowing Him.
 - f. Are we in this group?
 - i. We see the evidence
 - ii. We see the proof
 - iii. Mentally, we know what Jesus says is real
 - iv. However, we are stuck there. We do not accept the full revelation of who He proclaimed to be.
- V. Group 3 – Perceptually and mentally Blind moving to sight; Spiritually -?
- a. The man today – **8:22-26**
 - b. This man could not see
 - c. Others brought him to Jesus and Jesus took him off by himself.
 - i. Notice He uses spit again.
 - ii. At this time, Spirit, with magical formulas was believed to have medicinal properties to it.
 - iii. Jesus did not have any magic or any form of it.
 - iv. By doing this, He showed He was the Master over healing
 - d. What we do not know was, did this bring him to salvation? The text does not say.
 - e. Are we part of this group?
 - i. Maybe we sense, spiritually, something else is there. Maybe there is more to this whole faith thing than we originally thought.
 - ii. However, we do not see mentally yet. We are unsure of what it is we are to believe.
 - iii. Maybe even mentally we are challenged because some things seem to grand or it doesn't make sense to our mind
 - iv. The part about faith is that we may not fully understand. However, it is unwise to reject the claims and statements of Scripture just because we do not understand.
- VI. Group 4 – Perceptually and Mentally see – Spiritually – moving from blindness to sight
- a. Peter – **8:27-30**
 - b. The fact that Peter had it revealed to Him shows us a small clarity of all three levels.
 - i. He physically saw the Master
 - ii. Mentally He knew there was more
 - iii. It was revealed to Him Spiritually that Jesus was more than just a teacher or a man – **Matthew 16:17¹**
- VII. What is true vision and blindness?
- a. We have another place of true vision and blindness – **John 9:30-41**
 - i. In this passage, a blind man has been excommunicated for his belief in Jesus
 - ii. I picture this as dawning of light. Notice His progression of faith
 - 1. At first, Jesus was someone who used clay – **John 9:15**

¹ **Matthew 16:17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

2. Then, Jesus was a prophet – John 9:17
 3. Then, Jesus was a miracle worker – John 9:25
 4. Then, Jesus was more than even He realized, and it was growing – John 9:30-33
- iii. Notice now, in our text:
1. He is kicked out of the Synagogue
 2. Jesus finds Him and says what he does in 9:35
 3. The man responds – 9:36
 - a. Jesus answer shows us two things
 - b. The man was beginning to see the truth
 - c. He was now physically seeing
 - d. He mentally was seeing
 - e. Spiritually – He was moving from blindness to sight
 4. Jesus answers – John 9:37
 5. The man then comes to full sight in EVERY part of the Triune part of our nature – John 9:38-39
- b. But notice true blindness – John 9:40-41
- i. The Pharisees saw all of this...yet notice their question in verse 40
 - ii. Jesus answer suffices to show us that they are indeed blind mentally and spiritually – Isaiah 6:9-10
- VIII. How can one begin to see? – Romans 1:19-20²
- a. This verse gives us the basis.
 - b. None are without excuse
 - c. Just simply looking around at nature tells us there is more than ourselves and our ideologies.
 - d. This world is created to point men to Jesus. It is called General revelation
 - e. As the belief in General Revelation grows, I am a firm believer that God will start to reveal special revelation of Himself.
 - f. We have an example of this
- IX. What does this movement look like in the life of an unbeliever? – Acts 10:1-8
- a. Cornelius was not a believer
 - b. However, Cornelius prayed. To whom, I don't think He even knew.
 - c. It was as He was praying, He was told to get Peter.
 - d. Peter comes and notice the Special revelation that was given to move them from Blindness to sight – Acts 10:34-48
 - e. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- X. Is this our group?
- a. We, as believers, are called to have sight in all three areas (Mentally, Physically and Spiritually)
 - b. Our Master's desire is for us to see the truth in every aspect which then compels us to follow Him more and closer.

² Romans 1:19-20 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

- i. "Imitate Christ as dear Children!" – Ephesians 5:1
 - ii. How can we imitate that which we cannot see?
- c. Simeon had this sight – Luke 2:29-32
- d. The only way we can move to this kind of sight is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached.
 - i. The simple gospel
 - ii. Jesus is the Son of God. He died for our sins. He rose again for us and He is willing to make intercession for us to God.
- e. May we be part of the true sight. Not those who are lacking in one or more of the other.

What was the lesson then for our text? I believe it was to show that this man NEEDED God to see. He could not see without God. He needed Him. His personality, His physicians, His personality all failed to do what Jesus did. We all need Jesus or we will die in our blindness and be lost eternally.