

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 24

### Mark 8:22-30 A Blind Man Learns to See

8<sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida, / and some people brought a blind man / and begged Jesus to touch him. / <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand / and led him outside the village. / When he had spit on the man's eyes / and put his hands on him, / Jesus asked, / “Do you see anything?”

<sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, / “I see people; / they look like trees walking around.”

<sup>25</sup> 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. / <sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him home, / saying, / “Don't even go into the village.”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on / to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. / On the way he asked them, / “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, / “Some say John the Baptist; / others say Elijah; / and still others, / one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” / he asked. / “Who do you say I am?”



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Peter answered, / “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. **To restore:** Reestablished, returned
2. **To beg:** Humbly and from the heart ask for something, typically food, money or help.
3. **To spit:** To eject saliva from one’s mouth forcibly or on purpose. A show of contempt to someone.

### ***Questions***

1. How was blindness viewed in the lands that Jesus walked?
2. Only Mark tells this story. Where do you think he got the information?
3. Why did Jesus take the blind man outside the village and away from crowds?
4. Jesus used spittle to help the man understand his healing. Why spittle or spit?
5. This is the only miracle in the Bible that happened in stages? Why?
6. What is the symbolic message of healing in stages?
7. Christianity is a long road, a life-long road. Can it happen instantly?
8. “Who do you say that I am?” A question we must all answer, so who do you say that Jesus is?

9. Why did Jesus tell them not to tell others about this?

**Notes: Mark 8: 22-26**

1. Jesus has been in the Decapolis, and has gone to Bethsaida, where he continues his ministry. The Galilee was part of the ruling area of Herod Antipas, and there were many Pharisees ready to question Jesus and even to harass him. Jesus left the area to work with Gentiles, but primarily to teach the disciples without harassment.
2. Blindness was a scourge in the Middle East. People had no idea how to keep their eyes clean and free of matter and flies. (Scourge: a constant torment. It was a chronic problem with no easy resolution.)
3. Again, Jesus takes the man away from the crowds to heal him. This level of consideration and sensitivity is often found in Jesus. He healed for the man, not for the glare of publicity.
4. Remember, spit or spittle was considered to have healing properties. Jesus was using a technique that people understood in that day.
5. This is the only two-part miracle we see in the healings of Jesus throughout the New Testament. Perhaps this could be seen as symbolic of the fact that Christianity is a constant life-long growing, *in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*
6. Mark 8: 27-30 is considered the turning point of Mark; the center and most important message Mark is to deliver. Peter was

almost always with Jesus and evidently he told stories few others knew about or remembered.

7. Jesus continues to walk along the International Transportation Artery all the way up to Caesarea Philippi. Here he is free to work with the disciples away from the distractions of the Pharisees. The eight to ten months of his travels will come soon to an end, and Jesus will begin the long walk to Jerusalem and to his death.

