

## "Do you see anything?"

**A. Intro:** *Myopia*

**B. Sermon in a Sentence:** *Seeing is seeing Jesus clearly.*

**C. Context and Meaning of Mark 8:22-26**

This biblically-unique two-stage healing of a blind man, **which only Mark includes**, is set before the hinge in the Gospel's revelation of who the disciples understand Jesus to be. In Mark 8:29, Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, though he is still blind to what that means and why Jesus must suffer and die (8:31-33). Jesus seems to purposely extend his healing of the blind man to reveal to the disciples and us that we are often only slowly overcoming our spiritual myopia.

**Mark's (& Peter's) Purpose is to Bring Jesus into Focus**

- Mk 8:14-21 The disciples are blind to the Bread of Life.
- Mk 8:22-26 Jesus heals the blind man in two stages.
- Mk 8:27-33 Peter vaguely sees Jesus as Messiah but is still blind to His purpose.

**D. MARK 8:22-26**

<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 go into the village."

**E. Lessons to Embrace from Mark 8:22-26**

1. Physical healing is sometimes only a small part of a bigger picture.
2. Spiritual healing sometimes requires stages.

**Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**F. LIFE APPLICATION STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS OR PERSONAL GROWTH**

1. Which of your five senses is your strongest? Your weakest? How has that affected you?
2. What stages of insight have you moved through in your recognition of Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
3. Why do you think the disciples were unable to fully recognize Jesus as God until after the resurrection? When has it taken you a long time to change your paradigm?
4. Who around you is stuck in spiritual blindness? Ask Jesus for how he wants to bring healing into their life. Pray for that person each day this week, and seek to do something kind and spiritually nourishing for them.