

SEEING JESUS CLEARLY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—April 30th, 2023

Mark 8:22-26

(ESV)

[22] And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. [23] And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" [24] And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." [25] Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. [26] And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

INTRODUCTION

The greatest danger we face is when we become desensitized to the grace we have received in Christ.

Psalm 103:2

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

Today's miracle points beyond itself to the need we all have to see Jesus clearly.

THE PRACTICAL ASPECT

Jesus cares about the broken.

Isaiah 12:6—*"Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."*

Jesus' power can be made personal to us.

Isaiah 57:15

*For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

THE LITERARY ASPECT

Mark's goal in his gospel is to reveal to his readers the true identity of Jesus Christ.

- Mark: 1:1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*
- The Father: 1:11 *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*
- The Demoniac: 5:7 *"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"*
- The Scribes: 3:22 *"He is possessed by Beelzebul,"*
"By the prince of demons he casts out the demons."
- Jesus' Family: 3:21 *"He is out of his mind."*
- The disciples: 4:4 *"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*
8:18 *Having eyes do you not see?*

Mark wants us to know that when Messiah came, the blind would see—physically and spiritually.

Isaiah 35:5

*[5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;*

Acts 9:17–18—*[17] "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [18] And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight.*

THE CHRISTOLOGICAL ASPECT

Healing of the paraplegic (ch. 2)—the Messiah had authority over the spiritual realm.

Healing of the deaf-mute man (ch. 7)—the Messiah had come to save the nations.

Healing of the blind man (ch. 8)—the Messiah came to suffer and die.