

## Mark Part 16 - "Fix your Gaze" (8-10-25)

**Main Text:** Mark 8:22-9:1 (parallels: Matthew 16:13-28, Luke 9:18-27)

**Let's explore today's Passage . . .**

### 1) Healing of the Blind man of Bethsaida

#### Mark 8:22-23 (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?"

**Note:** Are we more interested in being seen, than helping people to see?

Do we need to be upfront on a stage and be seen?

Does it have to be recorded and posted on social media?

Or do we lovingly and gently take people aside and minister life to them?

Do I need to be seen and acknowledged when I'm sacrificing and serving others?

I wonder if we'd see more miracles if we were less concerned with making a big show about it.

#### Mark 8:24-26 (ESV)

[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."

**Note:** There's hope for those who don't see clearly right away. The miracle didn't fail, & Jesus didn't give up.

### 2) Who do you say that I am?

#### Mark 8:27-28 (ESV)

[27] And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" [28] And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

**Note:** Earlier in Mark we see the rumblings about Jesus due to His miracles . . .

#### Mark 6:14-16 (ESV)

[14] King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." [15] But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." [16] But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

**Note:** Herod makes it about himself, his horrible choice, and most likely his fears of what it will mean for him

Now Jesus gets right to the point . . .

#### Mark 8:29-30 (ESV)

[29] And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." [30] And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

**Note:** Who do you say that I am? At some point we all have to answer this question for ourselves. No one else can answer it for you.

Peter's Journey to this confession . . .

### **John 1:43-44 (ESV)**

[43] The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." [44] Now Philip was from **Bethsaida**, the city of Andrew and Peter.

**Note:** Now here is Peter after 2 plus years of following Jesus, back in his home town as Jesus heals this man.

Peter must have been thinking about how he originally started following Jesus . . .

### **John 1:40-42 (ESV)**

[40] One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. [41] He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). [42] He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

**Note:** Andrew's confession - we have found the Messiah, this was his confession and his invitation to Peter.

Now all this time later, through the ups and downs of his faith journey, as Jesus has just been warning the disciples about not understanding who He is, and cautioning them about having their hearts hardened . . .

Here is Peter - just outside his home town - watching Jesus bring sight to the eyes of this blind man.

And now, Peter's own eyes are opened and He confesses Jesus!

Jesus has shown (and will continue to show) the same patience with Peter's blindness as he has shown to this blind man, who doesn't see clearly at first.

## **3) Jesus foretells His death**

### **Mark 8:31-33 (ESV)**

[31] And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32] And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33] But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

**Note:** Jesus is defining for them what being the Christ really means, it's not just miracles and teachings. The gospel is the death and resurrection of the Messiah.

I can just imagine Peter - I finally figured out who this guy is, and now he's talking about dying!

## **4) The cost of following Jesus**

### **Mark 8:34-38 (ESV)**

[34] And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [35] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. [36] For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? [37] For what can a man give in return for his soul? [38] For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**Note:** Jesus never lies to us about the cost of following Him. And He himself bears that burden. Notice we "follow" Him in death. Yet, he reminds us, that no cost is too great for the salvation of our souls. If we lose our life for His sake, we truly find it!

This can be hard to see in the day-to-day of taking up our cross. But as we go, our eyes are opened to see Him more and more clearly . . .

**Mark 9:1 (ESV)**

And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

**Note:** His Kingdom is as hand, and we can see it’s power at work in and through our lives, as we keep our gaze fixed on Jesus!

**Conclusion:**

May our eyes be opened to the Power of Jesus, as we carry the gospel, in humility and love, to those in need.

May our eyes be opened to the Person of Jesus, not as we want or imagine Him to be, but as He truly is.

May our eyes be opened to our Life with Jesus, let’s pick up our cross and follow Him, gaining our lives even as we lose them for His (and the gospel’s) sake!