

2026-02-01

## Can You See Clearly Now?

Mark 8:22-26

The weather in the eastern United States has been very severe this past week. Have you ever gone through a blizzard where you could not see anything around you but snow. It is called a White Out. We have had some in Northern Arizona, but not here in the desert southwest. In our area we can get dust storms that are just as blinding. They are called Haboobs. You do not want to be driving between Phoenix and Tucson when they roll through. They are as dangerous as a winter White Out. It can also rain so hard in our area that we have zero visibility. Thinking of times we are not able to see, when we go to sleep, **we close our eyes and everything is dark.** Praise God that each morning we wake up, we can see. There are some people today who are dealing with worsening eye conditions. They are slowly losing their sight. Other people have had this problem. Issac was going blind in his old age (Genesis 27:1). Jacob also went blind in his old age (48:10). There are people who were born blind (John 9:1). Some people have accidents and lose their sight. Others lose their sight for various reasons. I have been told it is better to be born blind rather than lose your sight. Their reasoning is, when a person is born blind, they do not know what they are missing. Their other senses also compensate for their lack of sight. The man in our scripture reading today seems to have lost his sight at some point in his life. I say this because when he first began to see, he saw men who looked like “*trees walking.*” If this man was born blind, how would he know what a tree looked like? (Mark 8:24). We do not know very much about this man. All we really know is, some people brought this man to Jesus. We assume these people were his friends. These friends must have believed that Jesus could heal the man. We have no idea if the man believed Jesus could heal him. He never expresses any faith in Jesus and His healing ability. Mark is the only person that gives us this event.

**Mark 8:22** “*Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.*” Jesus and the disciples are on a journey. Once again, they are traveling north of the Sea of Galilee. They are going to Caesarea Philippi and beyond. Jesus has some important things to discuss with the disciples at this location. He did not want to get sidetracked with a large crowd of people who took up His time with all the things they wanted. As they got started on their journey Jesus and the disciples went through the town of Bethsaida. While Jesus was there, some men brought a blind man to Him. These friends begged Jesus to touch the blind man they brought to Him. They believed all Jesus had to do was touch the blind man and he would be healed. Jesus had compassion for the effort of these friends and this blind man, but He did not want to make a scene and attract a crowd of people. He needed

to move on with His disciples. There were many things they needed to learn and understand.

**Verse 23** *“So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.”* Jesus definitely touched the man. He took the blind man by his hand but the man was not immediately healed. Jesus took this blind man by the hand and led him away from his friends, away from the disciples and away from any other on-lookers. He took the blind man out of town. What a great walk this could have been. The blind man had some private time with Jesus. If Jesus **only wanted privacy**, He could have found it in a room in a building nearby. Jesus wanted the countryside to test this man’s sight. Once again Jesus used His spit in a healing. He used His spit with a deaf man who had a speech impediment (Mark 7:32). With that person, He put His spit on the deaf man’s tongue so that the deaf man knew Jesus was doing something about his speech impediment (7:33). Here Jesus puts His spit on the blind man’s eyes. Maybe he had dry eyes. Then Jesus put His hands, His palms on the man’s eyes. We know that Jesus did this to help the man’s faith, not for the healing process. If Jesus wanted to, all He would have had to do was speak a word and the blind man would have received his sight. My guess is the blind man had no faith in Jesus at all. I believe Jesus did these actions to help the blind man have faith in Jesus, who really could heal him, if he would only believe.

**Verse 24** *“And he looked up and said, ‘I see men like trees walking’”* When I read the words, *“he looked up,”* I picture a man who has been hanging his head, doubting that this Man Jesus, who had led him out of town, spit on his eyes, pushed the palms of His hands on his eyes, had any ability to heal him. Then without faith, without believing, he lifted up his head and opened his eyes. He did not expect to see anything, but, when he opened his eyes this time he saw *“men like trees, walking.”* I just imagine the excitement this man had. He probably started crying with excitement. At this point, faith and belief in Jesus as a miracle worker had exploded in this man’s heart and mind. He is starting to see again. I cannot imagine what life would be like if I lost my sight, totally. My whole world would change. I also cannot imagine what life would be like if I was able to start seeing something, anything moving. I am sure I would be ecstatic, just to see some movement. I would think that maybe there is hope that I would see again.

**Verse 25** *“Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.”* If this man was as excited as I think he was, Jesus had to calm him down. I am sure Jesus talked to him and possibly asked him if he believed that He, Jesus could restore his sight. If Jesus did ask the man, no

doubt the man told Jesus, yes, I do believe you can restore my sight. Then Jesus told the man to close his eyes again. Jesus did not need to spit on his eyes this time. He simply put the palms of His hands on the blind man's eyes again. When Jesus removed His hands, this time Jesus told the man to look intently. I know in my English translation it says Jesus made the man "look up." But it is a different word in the Greek than the "look up" in verse 24. It is the word "to look," with a different added preposition. This combination of words gives the meaning that the blind man is to look intently or to look believing. Now that this man had some faith in Jesus, he saw some movement, Jesus wanted the man to open his eyes this time and look out believing that Jesus could heal him and he would see. And his sight was restored. He could see clearly. If you let God finish His work in your life, He will finish it.

In this healing, I see that Jesus had recognized in this blind man, before his healing, that he could have the ability to believe, to have faith in Jesus. It would just take some time. Most people do not believe in Jesus right away, the first time we share the gospel with them. They need time to think, time to process, time to consider the commitment and the cost, time to truly believe. For me, it seems like I had to hear someone share the gospel 100 times before I actually believed and trusted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. The first several times I heard the gospel presented to me I was not very nice to those people. But the more I heard the gospel, the more I watched the lives of those who shared the gospel, the more I saw where my life was going, the more I realized I needed a change. Now I can look back on my life and I can see how God was working through so many things to bring me to the point of faith and commitment to Him. Every year I can look back and see that my faith in Jesus has grown stronger. God is teaching me to be more content, more trusting and more thankful. I try not to let anything bother me, knowing that God is at work in every situation trying to bring maturity into believers and salvation into those who do not believe yet. I know that God wants to use me the way He is making me to influence others for His glory.

I like the way Paul summed up his life while he was sitting in prison. He wrote to the Philippians:

*"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that*

*for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (3:8-14).* Now that this man could see, now that He believed, he should not live in his past blindness. He can see clearly. He needed to press toward the goal God had for him.

**Verse 26** “*Then He sent him away to his house, saying, ‘Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.’*” Notice what Jesus does not say. Jesus did not tell the man not to tell anyone. Jesus said, do not tell anyone in the town. We should assume that the man’s house was not in town. Hopefully this man’s friends had gone to his home and waited there to see what happened to their friend that Jesus led away from them. The man is excited. He wants to tell someone about his healing. At some point everyone will know, but for the moment Jesus does not want a big scene in town so that a crowd of people come running out to Him only to get their desires met. Remember, Jesus was only passing through this town with His disciples. Jesus was on a journey to Caesarea Philippi. He will be teaching them for the first time about His coming suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus does not want to be delayed. The healed man going to his home gives Jesus and the disciples time to continue their journey north to Caesarea Philippi.

**Questions to ask yourself:** What is Jesus trying to teach you? For the blind man, Jesus pulled him aside, away from everyone else to teach him that Jesus had the power and authority to heal him. The blind man needed to believe and Jesus gave him that chance. What is Jesus trying to teach you? Does Jesus want you to start your journey of faith in Him? Do you see clearly who Jesus is and the commitment you need to make? Maybe God is trying to teach you to walk more in His will this year. Do you see clearly His calling to be more like Jesus? If you let God finish His work in your life, He will finish it (Romans 8:29-30).

**Actions to take:** Recognize God’s work and calling in your life. Turn away from the influence of the world and live out the will of God in your life.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;  
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