

THE BLIND MAN JESUS TOUCHED TWICE

(Part 29 – series *The Miracles of Jesus*)

TEXT: Mark 8:22-26

INTRODUCTION: This is the second of only two miracles of Jesus recorded by Mark that are not found in any of the other three gospels. It bears striking similarities to that other miracle – Christ’s healing of the deaf and dumb man in chapter seven.

- In both instances Christ takes the sufferer aside from the multitude and worked His miracle in privacy.
- In both miracles Jesus employed both His touch and His saliva upon His finger.
- After performing each of the two miracles, Jesus urgently demanded that the person benefiting keep it silent.

But the most significant difference in this miracle is the fact that Jesus healed the blind man **gradually**. He did it in two stages. In almost all His other miracles the healing was instantaneous. There must have been a reason for this marked departure from His usual method. This was the last miracle of Christ recorded by Mark, and as we examine it more closely, we will conclude that he saved the best till last.

OUTLINE: This miracle bears three peculiar features that each speaks volumes of spiritual lessons.

I. The Privacy of it

(v. 23a)

A. Testing the blind man

B. Training the Twelve

II. The Prescription for it

(vv. 23b-25)

A. Unusual

B. Gradual

1. Incomplete knowledge (1 Cor. 13:9, 12)

2. Immature faith (Matt. 9:29)

C. Effectual (“*saw every man clearly*”)

III. The Prohibition after it

(v. 26)

A. A commentary on Christ’s “hour” (John 2:4; 7:30; 12:23)

B. A condemnation of Bethsaida (Matt. 11:20-22)

CONCLUSION: The peculiar features of this miracle demonstrate that Jesus is more than just a compassionate Miracle-worker. He could have restored sight to this blind man without using such unusual methods. He must have wanted to teach His disciples important spiritual truth about growth in faith and knowledge.

Christ's offer stands good for us too. If we desire Jesus to help us, He will bless us. If we expect Him to be faithful, He will do it (1 Thess. 5:24). He will complete His work of illumination and sanctification, until in Heaven we "look up" and the first face we shall behold will be His! We shall be abundantly satisfied with His likeness, "*for we shall see Him as He is.*"