

Why Are We So Blind to the Truth Sometimes?

Luke 9:28-48

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But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying. - Luke 9:43-45, ESV

Do you ever just shake your head at the disciples when you read the Gospels? They just don't seem to get it, do they? But before we're too hard on the thick-headed disciples, we need to think about our own lives. How many times have we just not seen the truth of what we now see as obvious? And remember that these same disciples who are so clueless here would go on to spread the Gospel farther in a single generation than any other group of disciples in church history, from Spain to India to Ethiopia.

So, what makes the difference? Why is it that we didn't understand spiritual truths that we now do? How is it that the disciples could be so blind to the truth here and so insightful as to write the New Testament years later?

Well, we don't need to guess, because the Bible tells us. In verse 44, Luke tells us that the disciples "*did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it.*" We can take this verse and add to it some other Scripture:

"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." - 1 Cor. 2:14, ESV

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." - 2 Cor. 4:3-4, ESV

And here are the conclusions we can draw . . .

1. When we don't see or understand spiritual things, it's because we're being kept from understanding them. Satan actively blinds the minds of unbelievers. God sovereignly chooses to keep us from seeing the truth until He chooses to reveal it to us.

2. We need the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds to understand spiritual truths.

Knowing these two truths is vital because it keeps us humble and helps us have compassion on others. What we understand of God's truth has been revealed to us by God. Unbelievers are in rebellion against God, as we were, but they are also being kept in the dark. They need our sympathy and our prayers and not our arrogant anger and judgment. And we should also be sure to give all glory to God and take absolutely no credit for ourselves for anything we do understand of the Lord and His ways.