

Discussion Guide

Week of March 10, 2013

Mark 8:22–26

Passage Overview:

While Jesus remains on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, a blind man is brought to him for a healing account unique to Mark's gospel. As with previous episodes with Jesus, vision is a major theme of this encounter. In fact, verses 22–26 contain no less than nine terms related to "seeing." This is all building up to the revelation of who Jesus really is over the next few chapters.

Understanding God's Word—Read Mark 8:22–26.

- As with the previous healing of the deaf/mute man in Mark 7:31–37, the healing of the blind man is both familiar and unique.
 - How is Mark 7:31–37 similar to Mark 8:22–26?
 - How are the two accounts different?
- In Mark 8:14–21, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and his disciples for not understanding who he is. But then in Mark 8:27–30, Peter correctly identifies Jesus as "the Christ." Why does Mark insert the account of this man's healing here between Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees/disciples and Peter's confession of Christ?

Living and Applying God's Word

- The man's blindness is healed in two stages. Even in the process of being healed, the blind man calls people "trees" (v24). Likewise, spiritual blindness prevents us from seeing people, circumstances and even Christ rightly.
 - Why does Jesus heal the man this way?
 - What does this say about our blindness to Christ and the world?
 - What does this say about Jesus' power and plan for our healing from spiritual blindness and sinfulness?
- Jesus led the blind man by the hand out of the village, saying not to return to the village after his healing. Why would Jesus draw him away for healing?

Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- Blind, the man needed someone to bring him to Jesus. What does it look like to guide a person through spiritual blindness? Name someone you can guide to Jesus in this way.
- Like the blind man, we too must often remove ourselves from worldly distractions in order to be healed of blindness and sinfulness. What distracts us from Jesus' work to heal our blindness? How can we better cooperate with Christ's work to transform us into his image?
- What are areas in your life for which you need patience for Jesus' restorative work? How can we be patient as we wait for Jesus' work in the lives of others?

Prayer:

Read Psalm 43:3 and ask God to lead you by his light and truth. Pray for sight for those your group has mentioned as walking in blindness to who Jesus is. Pray also for the Carpenter family serving in Indonesia.

Announcements

- Midweek Fellowship (March 13 @ 5:45 p.m.) (sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Ladies' Lunch (March 19 @ noon) (sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Children's Ministry Volunteer Training (March 24 @ 9 a.m.) (christy@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Baptism (Easter Sunday, March 31) (wayne@insidecrosspointe.com)