



22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And 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 upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. 26 And he sent him away to his house, saying, **Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.** (Mark 8:22-26)

This is the only recorded instant of a progressive miracle, but its underlying mystery may be very much like the improving spiritual vision of those who receive Christ blindly, but come to see Him in more perfect light as a result of the process of sanctification over time. You will recall the faith of even Abram was not fully developed when he left Ur of the Chaldees. He was commanded to leave both kindred and possessions and go into the *“land which I shall show you.”* Abram (later called Abraham) did embark as commanded, but he failed to comply fully for he took both kindred and possessions. Later, Abraham’s faith was so fully matured that he was willing to sacrifice his only Begotten Son at God’s command without so much as a whimper or question.

Two salient points (there are more) of this miracle are 1) the efficacious benefit of our prayers for others. Christ was approached by friends of the blind man who had brought him to the best source of healing; and 2) the importance of patience on our part in our petitions to God. The man did not receive perfect vision at the first, but did so at the last. We shall all, thank God, have perfect vision at the last. *“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.”* (1 Cor 13:9) As our knowledge of Christ improves over time, so does our vision of Him and our awareness of His will for our lives. *“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”* (1 Cor 13:12)

Perfect vision is a grant of our Lord by Grace. In previous devotions, we have discussed the miracles of the feeding of 5,000 and then the 4,000. The 5,000 seem to have been mostly of the Jews, and the 4,000 were at Decapolis which would imply the great majority were Gentiles. Christ came to open the eyes of all who have eyes to see – and if they have not and plead for it, He will give them eyes to see. The miracle of the provision of Bread to such multitudes is significant to the occasion. Christ is our Bread, and the Manna of God which came down from Heaven. He is that Bread which has

neither spot nor leaven. It is that Bread which nourishes our spirit, and the Presence of Christ, which we see clearly in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Remember the two men who were on the Road to Damascus following the crucifixion (and unbeknownst to them – the Resurrection of Christ). As they walked and lamented the events of the last three days, Jesus came and walked with them. They knew Him not until He stopped to sup at their house. When He broke the Bread and gave it to them, their eyes were immediately opened and they KNEW Him! Jesus opens eyes!

Just prior to the miracle we are examining today, Jesus was challenged by the Pharisees to give them a sign from Heaven, but Jesus never used His power to impress or to gain personal acclaim. A good friend sent me this quote just this morning: *"Jesus fitted his help in just where it was needed. He never used his power to show that he could, but to help somebody. The people were hungry, and he fed them. The widow was broken hearted over her boy, and Jesus brought him back to life. The tax-collector called, and he helped Peter pay the bill. The wedding supplies run out, and he renewed them. His power is at hand today to help in the common things of our daily lives."* S. D. Gordon.

A single grain of faith may go a long way, indeed. *" . . . they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him."* Someone had at least heard about Jesus and knew that He could do something good for their blind friend. We do not know if the blind man had any faith at all, but he had friends who had at least a touch of that Light of Faith. Those who brought the blind man to Christ did not know EXACTLY what Christ could do, but they knew that His simple touch would be of benefit to their friend. Their prayers for the Touch of the Master's Hand were selfless and compassionate. They dared not ask Christ to restore the man's vision, but they were bold to ask only for the touch.

Jesus could see into the heart of the blind man. We know not what the searching eyes of Jesus found there, but it is possible that He discovered that the man himself lacked faith. He had been brought on faith that he did not own. *"And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town."* The best solution for a lack of healing faith is to get alone with the Lord. The man, unable to find his own way, was led by the hand of Christ away from the madding crowd. *" . . . and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought."* This miracle of gradual healing is one of remarkable exception. It may often be true that the suppliant to the benefits of Christ needs patience and greater understanding for healing. The truth of His power, in this instant, seems to needed to grow in the heart of the blind man. Jesus has touched this man in the most intimate way, and now Jesus asks of him if he can see. If you are seeking the Hidden Manna of Christ in the Scriptures, it may be that the Holy Ghost will raise a multitude of questions to haste you on to the Treasure you seek.

Now the blind man answers Jesus: *"And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking."* Yes, the man can see now, but his vision is very limited. Newly converted Christians often believe that they see more truth than time and study could have revealed. To this blind man, even see men as trees walking was a glorious improvement, but he had no idea how glorious would be that improvement in the end. He, like a new convert to Christ, sees *"through a glass darkly."* *"After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly."* Once we have been touched by the hands of Christ at our weakest point, we will be restored wholly. When we see our fellow man clearly, we are also able to know God better. When we know that man is clearly incapable of righteousness and trust apart from the efficacious working of the Holy Ghost, we will know no other

power than God upon which to call.

We all come to Jesus out of our desperate need. He satisfies that need and sends us out to be a light to others. *“And he sent him away to his house, saying, **Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.**”* It is a curious matter that Jesus, unlike other times, told the man to tell no man in the town. Jesus usually told those whom He healed to simply “tell no man.” There are two main possibilities, in my view, for this present instruction to the blind man: 1) Jesus had other pressing business later in Caesarea Philippi and could not linger for the crowds that would have surely emerged from the town at the news of the healings; and 2) Jesus prefers for us to come to Him in faith and not seeking signs and miracles. Of course, He always worked miracles for those who needed them, but not for show or spectacle.

We have a summary of the manner of Jesus in conducting this miracle by Rev. A. F. Muir:

He Isolates From Disturbing Influences.

First with Christ, that afterwards he may be in Him.

He Encourages and Confirms Faith.

Personal contact and operation, and kindly words, evoking patient’s inner freewill and power.

He Exacts Implicit Obedience.

The first use of the restored vision is to avoid those upon whom the man had formerly depended — a hard task! The life Christ’s people are bidden to lead may not commend itself to their judgment or desire, but it is best for their spiritual interests.

The Purpose in healing from spiritual blindness is at least five-fold: 1) Deliverance from blind guides. 2) Transfer of confidence to the true Guide. 3) Revelation of the invisible power of God. 4) Exercising the soul’s newly acquired powers of spiritual vision. 5) Giving spiritual direction for the future. Earnestness and knowledge are the parents of faith. This is the only progressive cure recorded in the New Testament. Why was it not instantaneous like the rest? Nothing our Lord did or left undone was without meaning; so there must have been a reason for this. That reason cannot have been in Christ. He was no respecter of persons; His tender sympathy yearned over this sufferer as tenderly as over the rest. It must be traced, then, to the man himself and his fellow citizens. If the state of morality had been higher in Bethsaida, if public opinion had been more upright, if the collective example of the citizens had been better, the probability is that Jesus would have healed outright and allowed the man to go into the town with the news.

What present application do we find in this miracle? We know from our own personal observations that something is terribly wrong in America today – something that was not so wrong in ages past when the nation stood on Godly principle and was a veritable Light to the World. When ‘My Country ‘tis of Thee’ was sung following the reading of a Psalm each morning in our public schools. No we stumble as drunken men. Our children have rebelled because they have seen the utter dereliction and hypocrisy of their parents who will stand for nothing. (I am generalizing, for there are yet many incredible heroes remaining among our disheveled lot). America has lost her vision. The Lord took us by the hand as vagrants and oppressed believers in Europe and led us

through the storms of the sea to this land that literally flows with milk and honey. He gradually opened our eyes to His Providence in our founding as a Nation, revered above every other nation of the world. He made our vision clear and our purpose bold. But we have gone blind once more for lack of seeing the Light. When we have been blessed so bountifully in our young years as a Constitutional Republic, who is left to bring us back to Christ by faith? We are blind men struggling in the darkness of our own doing.



My Christian friends of America, allow me to warn you and the nation – **the BRIDGE to the future has been washed away! DETOUR!** Turn from your wicked ways, seek out the old paths wherein our fathers walked, and return to the God who is your Maker! *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”* (Heb 2:3-4)