

Mark 8:22-26  
“*Out of Focus*”

**LET'S PRAY -**

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO MARK 8...

- I've titled tonight's message: **“*Out of Focus*”**

**INTRO -**

[Photography - Out of Focus Illustration]

NOW HERE IS THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION:

- When we live without the spiritual perception that Jesus gives us we go through life experiencing everything as blurry and out of focus
  - The danger is that we can mistake people, purpose, and truth

WE ARE GOING TO SEE JESUS HEALING A BLIND MAN

- And His methods here is unlike anything else we have seen Jesus do

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE AT

- At the beginning of the Chapter Jesus feeds the 4000
  - This is a similar miracle to the feeding of the 5000 in Chapter 6 but they are different instances
    - Here they took home 7 large baskets of food
      - The fact that Jesus was doing this twice suggests that he was trying to teach a spiritual lesson

THEY ALL GOT IN A BOAT BUT FORGOT THE BASKETS OF BREAD

- Take a look at Verse 14-21 with me...
  - The disciples saw their physical problems but did not have spiritual perception
    - Jesus even says ‘You have eyes- can’t you see?’
      - Its as if their spiritual perception was out of focus

NOW WE GET TO OUR MESSAGE WHERE JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN

- And Jesus would use this healing to help his disciples to realize

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- Read v.22-26

A COUPLE INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THIS PASSAGE:

1. The only Gospel where this miracle is included
2. The only miracle where Jesus had to heal twice
3. Wasn't a complete healing at the first touch

WE HAVE TO ASK A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus remove the man from the city before he healed him?
2. Why did Jesus spit on the man's eyes?
3. Why did Jesus seemingly 'fail' to heal the first time?

(READ V.22-23a)

**IDEA 1 - Location Matters**

BEFORE GOD HEALED THIS MAN HE HAD TO MOVE HIM FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER

- He was literally changing the man's environment
  - This isn't a rule for God's healings, but it's true in this instance
    - Before God is able to bless you there needs to be a removal of those things that are keeping you from God.
- Key: The environment we choose to live in will either be helpful or harmful to spiritual growth.
  - You can't plant a palm tree in Colorado
    - Why? Because the environment is not conducive to growth!

WHAT KIND OF AN ENVIRONMENT ARE YOU LIVING IN?

- Is it conducive to growth or one where your spiritual life is going to decay
  - In order to experience Jesus and His blessings this man had to change his environment

THE MAJORITY OF JESUS' MIRACLES WERE PUBLIC EVENTS

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- This is one of the few exceptions...
  - Can you imagine the quality one on one time this man may have had
    - He had all this time without the crowds to talk with Jesus
      - There needed to be a level of trust

THE BEAUTIFUL THING IS THAT JESUS MET THIS MAN EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS

- And he helped him to get to where he should be
  - He doesn't call us attain something before we are 'worthy'
    - And when he meets us he doesn't leave us where he found us

(READ V.23-25)

***IDEA 2 - Don't Settle for a Partial Healing!***

THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO IDENTIFY: There is no formula with God

- (Matt 9) Women who was bleeding touched Jesus' clothes
- (Mark 2) Jesus healed the paralytic man just by speaking
- (Matt 8) Centurion's Servant Jesus healed from afar
  - So we have to be mindful not to put God in a box
    - We also can also become dogmatic if were not careful

THIS IS THE ONLY MIRACLE WHERE JESUS HAD TO HEAL TWICE

- Objectively speaking you can look at this and claim that Jesus failed!
  - It's a reality that some healings are instant while some are gradual and progressive in nature
    - But God's healing power is the same

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS... THIS MAN REQUIRED MORE THAN ONE HEALING TOUCH

- His experience with Jesus happened in phases
  - Its is not uncommon in the life of a christian
    - The danger for us is when we are stuck in between touches
      - Imagine if this man was content with his blurry vision

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- This is where many christians will live their lives...

GOD HAS MORE FOR YOU THAN THE FIRST TOUCH

- Your last touch with God should not be your first, it's a continual walk.
  - Heres the principle:
    - God doesn't want you to stop at just having perception but wants you to have perspective.
- It's dangerous for a christian to live in this area of life only having the first touch but no true clarity...
  - Why is that?
    - Because after the novelty of sight wears off ...
      - You won't be able to tell friend from enemy, good doctrine from bad doctrine, you can't navigate life...
        - The good news is that God's desire is that we can have that 20/20 vision spiritually

LET ME ASK THIS QUESTION: HOW CLEARLY CAN YOU SEE THE BIG PICTURE OF YOUR LIFE?

- Remember the disciples were worried about their physical problems but have no spiritual perception.
  - If you said blurry you NEED a second touch.

**IDEA 3 - Uncomfortable Blessings**

(READ V.23-26)

FOR THIS MAN TO BE HEALED HE HAD TO GET UNCOMFORTABLE

1. He was led out of the city by a stranger
  2. He was Spat on
- It would have been very likely that as a blind man he was a beggar
    - It was a daily reminder of rejection, humiliation and shame
      - He might have been humiliated that a stranger spat on his face like everyone else
        - But that's not what Jesus did

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- Jesus may have used a method that involved this man's emotional vulnerabilities in order to bring him to this place of healing

FOLLOWING JESUS WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO BE COMFORTABLE

- In fact healing can often involve some level of pain
  - [Broken Bone resetting]
    - In the same way God sometimes needs to ‘rebreak’ areas in our lives
      - This process may hurt but its the only way to find full restoration.
        - Key: seeing clearly happens when Jesus touches the problem areas in our lives.

ONE THING THAT ALWAYS AMAZES ME IS HOW COMPLEX THE HUMAN EYE IS

- Our eyes are the second most complex thing in our body
  - When babies are born they see the world completely inverted
    - first month - their vision is completely blurry and can only see 8-12 inches away
    - 2-3 months they begin to notice faces and can see red and green
    - 4-5 months - they develop depth perception and can see blues and yellows
    - 6-8 months - they can now see faces from across the room and clarity improves greatly
    - Once they hit 1 year they are nearing adult level clarity

FLIP TO 1 COR 3:1 NLT

- This was a church that was filled with Adults who had no spiritual maturity and so were blind to the spiritual state of their lives
  - As a new believer although you can see the world your orientation might be off, or your vision might be blurred
- Fast Forward to 1 COR 13:11-12 NLT

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- It is only through a continual walk with God and encounters with him that you will experience Clarity

BEFORE WE CLOSE LETS LOOKS AT ONE MORE IDEA - READ [V. 26](#)

- This tells us that his home was not in the village but that he was spending time there
  - God specifically brought him out of the city, healed him and told him not to return to the old life
    - As a Christian, don't find yourself returning back to the old life.

**CALL WORSHIP UP**

**APPLICATION**

ARE YOU STUCK IN BETWEEN TOUCHES FROM GOD?

- Do you need God to give you clarity?
  - The way to get clarity in life is by allowing God to work on the problem areas of your life
    - Often times its a simple lack of surrender to the Lord that is making you walk around half blind.

DON'T WALK AROUND HALF BLIND

- Jesus wants to perfect his healing by bringing you to spiritual maturity

**PRAY**