

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH
Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

WILL YOU SHARE IN JESUS' GLORY?

Jesus opens blind eyes so we may take up our cross and share in gospel glory.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 8:22-9:1

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Mark 8:22-26 As Jesus opens eyes to see everything clearly...

- 22 And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a **blind** man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him.
23 Taking the **blind** man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his **eyes** and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you **see** anything?"
24 And he **looked** up and said, "I **see** men, for I **see** *them* like trees, walking around."
25 Then again He laid His hands on his **eyes**; and he **looked intently** and was **restored**, and *began* to **see** everything **clearly**.
26 And He sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

8:14-21 The disciples have not understood the significance of the person, Jesus, who is among them

Mark could not emphasize more clearly the need to see clearly than by telling of this healing that Jesus did to guide his disciples towards the truth.

As the blind man comes to see clearly in stages so does Peter and so do you and I.

8:26 *Do not even enter the village* It appears Jesus wants to strategically focus on his disciples not build the crowd.

Mark 8:27-29 ...he is seen to be God's anointed who forgives sins and brings in God's kingdom.

Elijah—taken into heaven (2 Kings 2:11) – and believed to be returning (Passover Seder) as forerunner of the great and terrible Day of the Lord (Mal 3:1; 4:5-6)

Parallels: **Matthew 16: 16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. [**Luke 9:20** the Christ of God]

The anointed of God: in the Old Testament prophets, priests and kings receive anointing

Jeremiah 23:55 "Behold, *the* days are coming," declares the LORD,
"When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

Fitting that this confession (ff. feeding of 4,000; disciples distracted, non-seeing; then the blind seeing) takes place in the Gentile area where Caesar & Pan were worshipped, near the headwaters of the Jordan River. Given Gen. 1 & Rev. 22 it is likely not coincidental that Jesus, the Water of Life, the Anointed of God, is first confessed here.

8:30 *warned them to tell no one...* The time for increased confrontation is not yet at hand.

8:31 *Son of Man* (See Daniel 7:13-17 as well as the Gospels).

Peter sees but not yet clearly? What about you? Who do you say Jesus is? Have you gone past the step of unclear seeing to seeing clearly and beginning to follow?

Mark 8:30-9:1 Because the redemption and restoration of the world must come by atonement and suffering all who follow Jesus must own Jesus' way as their own, sharing in his shame to claim their place when the kingdom comes in power.

Heaven is really important but it's not the end of the world.

Romans 8:18–25 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

8:31 Son of Man must suffer: Isaiah 52-53

8:32-33 Peter and we do not like the pathway of the cross. It destroys our dreams (only to replace them with better ones!)

8:33 God's interests, *literally*, "*the things of God*" contrasted with *the things of man*

8:34 Now Jesus is clearly teaching the implications of seeing him:

If we want to follow him we must take up our cross—laying down our things for his. The cross is not some difficulty we must bear, but the means, the choice of laying down our concerns and taking up his. Following Jesus forever (and daily) ends the Genesis 3 dream of having life while independent of God.

8:38: Ashamed of me and of **my words**:

8:35: *whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.*

This is the gospel we get in Jesus:

8:38 Don't miss that Son is coming in the glory of his Father with the holy angels to establish the new heaven and new earth.

9:1 Don't miss the beginning of the kingdom's coming in power was already seen by the disciples in the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and the Spirit's outpouring

Hear and follow:

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:34-43 ESV

Jesus' words: ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Mat 7:20-23 ESV