

## **FAITH-BUILDING MIRACLE**

Tuesday, August 1

Reading: Mark 8:22-26

**Mark 8:25** *Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

The healing of the blind man of Bethsaida is one of Jesus' most unusual miracles. Jesus once again takes the blind man away from the crowds. He then uses spit on the man's eyes and asks, "Do you see anything?" This question informs us that Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. This "partial" healing was not a power failure on Jesus' part. It was His plan all along! The man can now see, but his vision is fuzzy. Jesus touches the man again to complete the healing so the man can see clearly.

Why did Jesus perform this miracle in this way? I believe there are two possible reasons. For the blind man, it was an opportunity to stretch his faith. He had not come to Jesus on his own accord but was brought by "some people." By taking him away from these people Jesus could personally interact with him. Using spit was a common practice for healing at the time and would continue to bolster the blind man's faith. The partial regaining of sight would make his faith soar to new heights as he realized that Jesus could finish the job.

A second purpose in this healing involved Jesus' disciples. Jesus had just rebuked them on their trip to Bethsaida for having "eyes but failing to see." Jesus now gives His disciples a visual lesson. Just as the blind man had received sight in stages, so they would one day clearly see the truth about Jesus and His mission, even though now their understanding was fuzzy. It was a reminder for them to keep growing in their understanding and their faith.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1. "He Spit on the Man's Eyes and Put His Hands On Him." Like all Jesus' miracles, the power to restore the blind man's sight was not in the actions Jesus did but by the power of Jesus Himself. Jesus' actions were a means of aiding the man's faith. In our spiritual walk of faith, Jesus leads us along by His hand and uses situations in our life to strengthen our faith. What situations or people has Jesus used in your life to grow your faith? How have you seen God's hand leading you?
2. "Do You See Anything?" This question to the blind man should have reminded the disciples of the questions Jesus had just asked them. In fact, the last two healings in Mark (the deaf-mute and the blind man) are hinted at in Jesus' question, "Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?" (8:18). Like the disciples, we often fail to listen to God and do not understand His plan and purpose for us. The Twelve can be an encouragement to us for while they were confused at this time, they would become the pillars of the early church and their faith would turn the world upside down! We are all "works in progress." The Apostle Paul reminds us "that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). Where are you in your growing process? Are you more like Christ today than you were a year ago? A month ago? What steps would help you be more consistent in your Christian growth?