

Supernatural Discernment and Transformation

June 12th & 13th, 2021

Mark 8:22-30

“And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to Him a blind man and begged Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when He had spit on his eyes and laid His hands on him, He asked him, ‘Do you see anything?’ And he looked up and said, ‘I see people, but they look like trees, walking.’ Then Jesus laid His hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And He sent him to his home, saying, ‘Do not even enter the village.’ And Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of Ceasarea Philippi. And on the way He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they told Him, ‘John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.’ And He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered Him, ‘You are the Christ.’ And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.”

The Miracle of Physical Sight

- ❖ Eyesight is an amazing ability given by God.

Mark 8:22-25

↪ Jesus miraculously gave sight to this man; but as He healed him, He restored his sight in two stages.

- ❖ Mark identifies two blind men that Jesus healed; throughout the rest of the Gospels, five more are identified.

↪ The healing of the blind was always included in the miracles that are recorded in the Gospels.

Matthew 11:5 “The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”

Matthew 15:30-31 “And great crowds came to Him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at His feet, and He healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.”

Matthew 21:14 “And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.”

- ❖ It is necessary to look at this miracle in the context of...

... the blindness of the Pharisees that ask for a sign when there were plenty of signs.

... the lack of focus and discernment of the disciples when Jesus warned them about the leaven of the Pharisees.

... the statement of Peter regarding Jesus' identity.

- ❖ Physical eyesight is a metaphor that is used throughout the Scriptures to illustrate spiritual discernment.

- It was prophesied that Jesus would come and restore the spiritual sight of humanity.

📖 Isaiah 42:1-8

- Spiritual ignorance and spiritual darkness are equated to blindness in those who reject the truth of God.

📖 Matthew 15:10-16

John 9:39-41 “Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near Him heard these things, and said to Him, ‘Are we also blind?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, “We see,” your guilt remains.”

- Unbelief and Satan himself are the causes of spiritual blindness in humanity.

2 Corinthians 4:4 “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

- ❖ Jesus uses the miracle of a blind man to illustrate the process of restoration in the spiritual sight of His disciples.

- Jesus chose to reveal the truth to His disciples.

📖 Luke 10:21-24

- As the disciples believed and followed, their spiritual eyes were opened, and yet there was still a process remaining in the restoration of their sight.

📖 Luke 24:13-35; Luke 24:45-49

- Although the disciples were walking with Jesus, the revelation of the truth of Christ is a supernatural work of God that is continually developing in the lives of the disciples.

Mark 8:27-30

John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:65 “And He said, ‘This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father.’”

The Miracle of Spiritual Discernment

- ❖ Every human being, in their own strength, is blind to the understanding of God.

Mark 8:29 “And He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered Him, ‘You are the Christ.’”

Matthew 16:17 “And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Ephesians 4:17-21 “Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus,”

- ❖ As we learn the reality of our past spiritual condition, we realize that, apart from God, it is impossible to change the blindness and lack of discernment of our human heart.

Ephesians 2:1-5 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—”

- ❖ As Jesus called us to Himself, we were spiritually awakened and discovered who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-10 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.”

↳ In Christ, the gift of salvation becomes the “good news of salvation” for our life!

- ❖ As Jesus called us to Himself, we received an inheritance that we are to discover through spiritual insight.

Ephesians 1:11-14 “In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

↳ In Christ, the gift of salvation becomes the motivation of our praise to His glory!

- ❖ As Jesus called us to Himself, we are to prayerfully seek for a greater revelation of the knowledge of Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-17 “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,”

↳ In Christ, the gift of salvation becomes our passion to grow in the knowledge of Him!

Endnote:

- ♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.