

Title: He Spit on his Eyes
Text: Mark 8:22-26
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Mark 8: 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.

The Lord Jesus came to Bethsaida. When our Savior walked this earth, he went to certain places on purpose. He went where his lost sheep were. It is the Lord who draws near to his people. His people are lost, blind, unable to come to Christ. By nature, we do not want to come to Christ. So when Christ comes to give us life, Christ draws near to his people. And Christ never ceases to draw near to his people so that Christ keeps us drawing near to him.

Now, Bethsaida was one of the towns upon which the LORD pronounced woe. But the Lord had elect in Bethsaida. He called Philip, Andrew and Peter from Bethsaida. Woe is upon this entire world like it was upon that city. Yet, God had some elect in that city. And God has some elect in this world. So Christ who comes to his child in this cursed world. Christ leads us out. Christ blesses us with faith to see him and rest in him. And Christ continues doing so until he brings us to be with him in glory.

EVERY MAN'S CONDITION BY NATURE

Mark 8: 22: And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

This man was blind. His condition is the condition of every sinner as we come into this world. We fell in Adam. We were conceived of Adam's corrupt seed. This is the spiritual condition of all men born into this world. We are spiritually blind. We all come into this world without any spiritual life, without any spiritual understanding, without any ability to change our ruined state. We are even blind to our blindness. By our first birth, we are blind to our need of Christ due to our sin.

Romans 3:11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Sinners think they see. We are all, by nature, like the Pharisees. The worst of the worst are men who have made themselves religious like the Pharisee. Christ came to make his people see. And Christ came to make blind those who boast they can see of their own abilities. They are blind to their blindness so that they put their confidence in themselves. Christ blinds them more. Since we are all blind by nature and boasted we could see, this shows us spiritual sight is the gift of God's grace alone!

John 9: 39: And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40: And [some] of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41: Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

It is a rare thing to find a sinner that knows he is a blind sinner. Only the Spirit of God makes us see we are blind. Christ came to open the eyes of the spiritually blind. God the Father declared of the Son, Christ Jesus,

Isaiah 42: 6: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7: To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Through the preaching of the gospel, Christ causes the blind to see out of obscurity, and out of darkness (Is 29: 18.) He says these blind sinners who see are my witnesses.

Isaiah 43: 8: Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. 9: Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, *It is* truth.

Are there any who are blind? The Lord Jesus said, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin." He came to give sight to the blind. Those he gives sight to see our sin and need of Christ are those Christ purged of all sin so that for the sake of Christ, God forgives us of all our sin.

GOOD FRIENDS

Mark 8: 22: And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

These were mighty good friends. If you would show your family and friends how much you love them then ask them to come hear the gospel. If Christ were to give them sight to behold him then they will know you are the most loving friend

they have. This man's friends knew Christ alone was able to give their blind friend sight. So they brought their friend to Christ. Ask your family and friends to come with you to hear the gospel preached.

Then they "*besought the Lord Jesus to touch him.*" That is what we do for those we love when we pray for them. We pray that the great Physician will touch them and give them spiritual sight.

Remember when that leprous man came to the Lord and asked to be healed? The Lord reached out and touched him and immediately he was clean. No one else would touch that leprous man. The law forbid the person with leprosy from even being in the company of other men. The person with leprosy had to cry "Unclean, unclean!" But Christ touched him.

Christ's touch heals. That touch represents Christ taking the sin of his people and giving us his righteousness through faith in him. That touch represents the power of Christ to give us life and faith and bring us irresistibly to him.

We can ask loved ones to come hear the gospel. But when they come to where the gospel is preached, we have to pray and beseech the Lord to touch them. We cannot give any sinner sight. Only Christ is the Power of God. He is the Power of the gospel. Christ alone must touch his child and give us spiritual sight.

Brethren, when family or friends have come to hear the gospel, afterward, don't talk too much to them. It is ok to answer a few questions. But a lot of that is our flesh thinking we can reason men into the new birth. Let them think about what they heard. Trust Christ to make it effectual in their heart. Salvation is of the Lord teaching a man in the heart one to one. So rather than talking too much, after they have heard the gospel, pray to the Lord to make the word effectual and trust Christ to do so.

WHAT DID THE LORD DO TO THIS BLIND MAN?

Mark 8:23: 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.

The Master "*took the blind man by the hand.*" That blind man did not have sight to reach out and take Christ by the hand. Christ reached out and took the blind man by the hand. We did not have sight to take Christ by the hand, either! The sovereign hand of God who holds the waters in the hollow of his hand, reached out and took you by the hand, believer. Christ took each of his elect by the hand when the Father entrusted them into his hands in eternity. He takes each of his children by the hand in irresistible grace through the preaching of the gospel. It is those hands that were pierced in place of his people on the cross that lays hold of his lost child.

Isaiah 49: 16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

When he takes his redeemed by the hand, no man will take you out of his hand.

John 10: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Then the Lord "*led him out of the town.*" When our great Shepherd comes to give sight to one who he redeemed by his precious blood, he lead us out. This is how we are sanctified, separated, set apart, consecrated to Christ. Christ leads us out from vain religion without the camp. He leads us out from the world and from the vain opinions of men, our own included. Christ leads his child out from everything that would separate us from him. Christ is Sanctification and Christ is our Sanctifier. He leads us out. Salvation is between Christ and his child. He brings us out into the wilderness. He gets us alone with him that Christ might teach us our lewdness, even as Christ did for Gomer.

Hosea 2: 10: And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her OUT OF MINDE HAND. 11: I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. 12: And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. 13: And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD. 14: Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and BRING HER INTO THE WILDERNESS, and SPEAK COMFORTABLY UNTO HER.

Isaiah 42:16: And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Then the Savior "*spit on his eyes.*" This represents the eye-salve of the gospel.

Revelation 3:18: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

The Lord did this to the deaf man.

Mark 7: 32: And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. 33: And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; 34: And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. 35: And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

What do you first think when you think of Christ spitting in this man's eyes? Disgusting! Spit is disgusting. They spit in our Lord's face. In order to give this man sight, the Lord used that which is offensive and disgusting to man. That is a picture of this gospel of Christ and him crucified. This means is as disgusting to men as if someone spit in your eye or on your tongue.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...21: For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

God gives spiritual sight through the gospel which is disgusting to men. To natural man the preaching of the gospel is as disgusting as someone spitting in your eye. A bloody cross! Our Substitute crucified in place of his people! Blood! Blood! Blood! Blood by which Christ put away the sin of his people and made his people the righteousness of God in Christ. This message is as disgusting to natural man as someone spitting in your eye.

But through the gospel, he gives his people sight to see our sin and shuts our mouths. The Gospel is the light by whom we behold the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus for therein is the righteousness of God revealed. This is the sight-giving Light of how justice and mercy are fulfilled for his elect by Christ. Justification accomplished by him. Reconciliation made by him when we were yet enemies. The gospel comes to us out of his mouth and anoints our eyes giving us sight.

Then the Lord touched him—"he put his hands upon him." It is the touch of his all-powerful hand that makes this means of grace effectual to give us sight. Without the Masters touch our preaching will not heal. Christ alone is the Great Physician.

MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION

Mark 8: 32...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.

The Savior asked the man "*if he saw ought.*" When the Lord gives one of his elect sight the Lord requires a confession from us, not one time, but all our life.

Romans 10:5: For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. 6: But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,...8: But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

From the day Christ gives us sight to see our sins and to see Christ our Righteousness until the day Christ takes us home to glory, we confess our sins to Christ.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We confess him before men in baptism

Matthew 10: 32: Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33: But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

What did the man say? "*And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.*" Spiritual sight comes gradually. Christ gives the measure of grace as it pleases him when it pleases him.

Ephesians 4: 4: *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6: One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

All who he saves trust the same Savior, experience the same grace, are given the same graces and believe the same gospel. But we are not all given grace in the same measure. Blind Bartimaeus was given sight all at once. The blind man in John 9 had to go wash in the pool of Siloam and then he came away seeing. But the Lord gave this man sight gradually. The only way we will be lowly and meek and forbear with one another is if we understand that not all have the same measure of grace. But more than that is needed—we need to know that all grace is given in measure by Christ our Head. That makes us forbear and forgive one another and pray for one another because we know Christ is the Master of each of his people and Christ is able to make us stand.

Romans 12:3: For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

At first, this man had light. God had given him sight. But his vision was blurred. So he did not pretend to see what he did not see. He confessed what he saw—*“I see men as trees walking.”* At first, we see sin only in what we do; then as Christ gives more grace we see that sin is in our thoughts; then as Christ gives more grace we see that sin is what I am. At first, we see the righteousness of God in Christ’s accomplished work of redemption; then as Christ gives more grace we see Christ himself is our Righteousness; we rejoice in doctrine from the beginning but the more Christ gives grace then the more we rejoice in Christ himself in every doctrine.

Christ always finishes what he begins—*“After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.”*

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Proverbs 4: 18: But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

1 Corinthians 13: 12: 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.

Christ *“put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up.”* Christ makes us look up to see Christ seated on the right hand of God. He makes us look up to see Christ is our Life at God’s right hand. He makes us look away from everything below to Christ above. We saw last week, this is how Christ mortifies our flesh. We see today this is how Christ increases sight.

Colossians 3: 1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4: When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5: Mortify [THEREBY] your members which are upon the earth;

“He was restored.” By Christ making the man look up, he was restored. Christ restored more than we lost in Adam. He restored to his people righteousness which is eternal! Redemption which is eternal! Salvation which is eternal! By Christ being All we can never fall away in apostasy as Adam did. He makes us experience his restoration by making us look up to Christ alone.

Then the man *“saw every man clearly.”* When Christ restores our sight, what men do we see clearly? One, we see Adam clearly—we see our fall in Adam, our ruin in Christ, so that we know we are guilty by one man’s transgression. Two, we see our own sinful man clearly—we see we are sin in our sinful flesh; *“in my flesh dwelleth no good thing.”* But the Man we see more and more clearly is the GodMan, Christ Jesus—Christ is the Light and Wisdom by whom we see; we see Christ Jesus is our Wisdom, our Righteousness, our Sanctification and our Redemption; we see more and more clearly that Christ is our Salvation.

As Christ gives us more light to behold Christ is our All then Christ increases and we decrease. This is what happens as the light shine more and more unto the perfect day. We see more clearly our total ruin and inability to do anything to make ourselves accepted of God. We see more clearly that Christ is all our acceptance with God. We own ourselves more and more to be the sinner and we own Christ to be all and in all. That is true growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ—he increases and we decrease.

VALUE THE LIGHT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN

Mark 8:26: And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell *it* to any in the town.

The Savior forbid this man to tell anyone in the town of Bethsaida what Christ had done for him. Why? The citizens of Bethsaida despised Christ. Though the Lord called his elect from among them, though Christ did many works in their midst that clearly declared him to be Messiah, though the Light of Christ had come right there into their midst, they despised Christ and wanted him to leave them alone. So the Lord took away his light from them. And the Lord forbid his people to preach the gospel to them.

Matthew 11: 21: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22: But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not a beggar. If any closes their eyes to his gospel, refuses to hear his word, rejects the privileges he has brought near, Christ will leave them in their blindness. *“It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.”*

Christ warns us to take heed how we hear. To those Christ gives Light, as we value these privileges and seek to know more of Christ, Christ gives us more light. But to those who value other things more than Christ, who let other things take precedence over Christ and his gospel, over Christ and our brethren, over Christ and the word of God, Christ will take away the light they seemed to have.

Luke 8:18: Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

They only "*seemed*" to have light. None who Christ gives sight shall ever fall away in apostacy. But those who do were never given spiritual sight by Christ. They only "*seemed*" to have light. Those he gives sight know nothing is worth parting from the gospel. Those with true sight value Christ and seek to know more of Christ and let nothing separate them from assembling with their brethren under the preaching of the gospel of Christ. So this is Christ's word to you who believe.

Luke 8:18: Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

By the same grace that made Christ come to us and lead us out and give us sight, so we shall be kept and given more light unto the perfect day. So that we shall go on singing from the heart,

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

AMEN!