

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS**  
Class #229 – Sunday AM1 April 20, 2008

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**Mark 8:22-25** And they came to Bethsaida.



- Bethsaida is located on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus and the 12 disciples set sail from Magdala where the religious leaders tempted Him.
- After they arrived from Magdala, they spent the night.
- In the morning the townspeople brought a blind man before the Lord.

And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him.

- Brought – φέρω – **PHERO** – *To bring or to lead*
- The crowd is fulfilling the verbal action of “bringing or leading.”
- Emphasis is on the crowd and the vividness of the crowd’s action in leading the blind man to Christ.
- No emphasis is made on the man or his faith.

<sup>23</sup> Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village;

- Once the man was brought before the Lord, the Lord did with the man . . .
  - What He wanted.
  - Where He wanted.
  - When He wanted.
- This is such a pivotal miracle in the Lord’s ministry because it opens the final chapter.

- It's the beginning of the end.
- The Lord is teaching, not by what He says, but by what He does.

**There are things that the Lord desires to teach you outside of the classroom!**

- The way in which He chooses to restore this man's sight is unique.
- It's not an instantaneous healing.
- When the two blind men came to Him in **Matt. 9:27-29**, they recognized Him as the Son of David and they were healed instantly.
- The restoration of this man's sight is progressive and unique.

<sup>23</sup> 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,

- Spit – πτύω – PTUO
- The Lord grabbed him by the back of his head, drew him close, and spit on each eye.

After the Lord did this . . .

He asked him, **“Do you see anything?”**

<sup>24</sup> And he looked up and said, **“I see men, for I see *them* like trees, walking around.”**

- This communicates that the man could only make out shapes.
- He couldn't see details, just like a newborn babe.
- It takes time to develop visual acuity.

<sup>25</sup> Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and *began* to see everything clearly.

- Restored - ἀποκαθίστημι – APOKATHISTEMI - *to return or restore to an earlier condition*
  - This man was not born blind, he could previously see.
  - He became blind sometime over the course of his life - he lost his ability to see.

**Principle:** It takes time to see things clearly.

- Only God can give us the spiritual perception to see the things that He has for us.
- It takes time to see SPIRITUAL things clearly.

When this man said, **“I see men, for I see *them* like trees, walking around.”**

- Indicates that the Lord gave him the vision of a newborn baby

It was only after the Lord laid his hands on the man's eyes a second time that he could see everything clearly.

- The man's sight was improved in stages – progressively.
- That is the way it is with us!

The Lord scolded the disciples in the boat on the way to Bethsaida.

**“Having eyes, you do not see.”**

Even though you can see things with your eyes in the human realm, that does not mean you can understand or perceive things that the Lord is doing in the spiritually realm.

The Lord communicates that spiritual perception and understanding is totally dependent upon Him.

- The Lord is the One who must open the eyes of the blind.
- “Blindness” can occur in the believer and the unbeliever.

**Don't assume in arrogance that just because you've been saved you can see clearly.**

### **THE CASE OF THE UNBELIEVER – and personal evangelism**

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- Your unsaved friends are spiritually blind.
- Talking to the unsaved about doctrine is pointless.
- They are born having eyes, but they cannot understand spiritual truth.
- The Gospel is spiritual truth.

**You do not have the ability to heal the blindness of the unsaved - only the Lord Jesus Christ does.**

- Your responsibility is to do what the crowd did - -

**Mark 8:22** And they **brought** a blind man to Jesus and **implored** Him to touch him.

- Your responsibility is to bring the blind to the Lord.
  - **Φέρω** - To lead them to Christ
  - The only One who can heal spiritual blindness is the Lord.

And to implore Him to touch them . . .

- **Implore** – **παρακαλέω** – **PARAKALEO** - *to appeal or request*

**POD: The believer's responsibilities in personal evangelism begin at the throne of grace.**

**POD: The responsibilities continue in the world with a willingness to introduce your Savior with a dependence upon Him.**

**Mark 8:23** Taking the blind man by the hand. . .

- They simply handed him off to the Savior . . . we do the same thing in personal evangelism.
- Let the Lord take the matter the rest of the way.

The Lord is going to do whatever He needs to in order for the blind to see the glorious light of the Gospel.

### **THE CASE OF THE BELIEVER**

- Having eyes, we do not always see.
- Often we do not understand what the Lord is doing.
- Would you not question the Lord if He asked to spit in your eyes?
- We all need the Lord to spit in our eyes!

That takes three things for the believer to perceive things more clearly:

#### **1. It requires the Lord to act.**

- He must reveal things to you, and until He does you will not understand.

**POD: The Lord must act for me to see.**

- This becomes personal.
- Do you believe that - or do you think you are able to see without the Lord's help?

#### **2. It requires dependence and malleability.**

**POD: I must depend upon the Lord for the ability to see (for spiritual understanding).**

**POD: I must remain malleable.**

- There are things that you might have previously believed that are incorrect.
- The Lord wants to correct your thinking.
- To correct your thinking requires your malleability.

The Lord must act - the believer must be dependent and malleable.

#### **3. It takes time to see things more clearly.**

Just as the Lord progressively enabled the blind man to see things more clearly so it takes time for us to see things more clearly.

**POD: I must wait upon the Lord to understand things spiritually.**

Do you have willingness to “WAIT UPON THE LORD”?

- We must adjust to His timeline.
- There are believers who will not understand things that the Lord has opened your eyes to.
- Everyone grows at different rates - - the Lord deals with each of us individually.
- Be patient with one another and pray for one another and forgive one another.

There are spiritual things that you understand today that you didn't yesterday.

- You understand them today, because you depended upon the Lord to reveal those things to you.
- You waited upon Him – and He did.

That is exactly what happened with the blind man that He spit on; that is what happened with the disciples.

That is what happens with us.

**Mark 8:26** And He sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

- The Lord did not want a bunch of attention.
- The Lord is a fugitive of Herod and the religious leaders.
- The Lord has things to reveal to the disciples before the close of His ministry.
- The Lord will take them north to Caesarea Philippi.

**Mark 8:27** Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. . .

- Caesarea Philippi was at the base of Mt. Hermon.

. . . and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?”

**Matthew 16:13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

- The Lord frequently used this term to refer to Himself - it was His preferred title.
- Rarely did He use the term Messiah.

**John 4:25-26** The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

**Mark 12:35-37** And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.”’ <sup>37</sup> David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so in what sense is He his son?”

**John 10:24-25** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me."

**John 12:27-35** "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. <sup>31</sup> Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." <sup>33</sup> But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. <sup>34</sup> The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" <sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you . . ."

**Mark 14:60-62** The high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" <sup>61</sup> But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

**Luke 22:66-70** When it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying, <sup>67</sup> "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup> and if I ask a question, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on THE SON OF MAN WILL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power OF GOD." <sup>70</sup> And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am."

**Matthew 26:62-64** The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> Jesus \*said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

**Daniel 7:13-14** "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup> And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*