

I Can See, But Not Clearly

Mark 8:22–26 ESV

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.”

Colossians 2:9–15 ESV

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Jesus often opens our eyes gradually and patiently transforms the way we see.

Mark 8:25–26 ESV

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.”

- 1. Have I mistaken being complete in Christ for being finished by Christ?*
- 2. Where am I settling for blurry instead of pursuing greater clarity?*
- 3. What area of my life is Jesus inviting me to let Him transform next?*

Mark 8:27–29 ESV

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea 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.”

Mark 6:14–16 ESV

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

Malachi 4:1–6 ESV

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their

children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

Discipleship is allowing Jesus to become the lens through which you see everything else.

1. What parts of Jesus do I readily embrace?
2. What parts of Jesus make me uncomfortable?
3. Have I settled for familiarity instead of deeper understanding?

Mark 8:29 ESV

And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”

Small Group Guide: Willing to See

Opening Question

Have you ever thought you understood someone or something clearly, only to realize later that you were only seeing part of the picture? What helped you see it more clearly?

Seeing Isn't the Same as Seeing Clearly

Mark 8 gives us one of the most striking pictures in the Gospels: a blind man is brought to Jesus, and healing comes in two stages. At first, he can see, but only partially. "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus touches him again, and his sight is restored completely. That moment is more than a miracle. It is a picture of discipleship.

The disciples had already seen so much — miracles, healings, bread multiplied, storms calmed — and still they were not seeing Jesus clearly. They recognized that He was different, but they were still filtering Him through fear, expectation, and old assumptions. Mark is showing us that spiritual blindness is not only about seeing nothing. Sometimes it is about seeing something, but not clearly.

Jesus does not shame the blind man for partial sight. He keeps working. He keeps touching. He keeps leading. That is good news for us too. Jesus is committed to finishing what He starts in you. He often opens your eyes gradually, and He patiently transforms the way you see.

For Discussion

1. In Mark 8:22–26, why do you think Jesus healed the man in two stages instead of all at once?
2. What stands out to you about Jesus taking the man by the hand and leading him away from the village?
3. Where do you see partial sight in your own life — an area where you know Jesus is real, but you still do not see clearly?
5. Peter gives the right answer: “You are the Christ.” Why is it possible to say the right words and still miss the deeper reality of who Jesus is?
6. What parts of Jesus do you readily embrace? What parts of Jesus make you uncomfortable?
7. Have you ever confused familiarity with Jesus for intimacy with Jesus?
8. What area of your life is Jesus inviting you to let Him transform next?

For Reflection

Read Psalm 139:23–24 and pray:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. See if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Then ask God to show you one place where your vision may be blurry — where fear, familiarity, or a fixed expectation might be getting in the way. Share whatever He shows you with the group.