

# MARK 8.22-26

## SHARE

Did you know that almost half of the brain's capacity is dedicated to visual perception?

## SEEK

### See What I Mean?

In Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, there is a blind character by the name of "Blinkin'". Upon falling from a watchtower, Blinkin' brushes himself off and exclaims, "I can see!" only to run into a tree moments later. He disappointingly confirms, "Nope, I was wrong."

Interestingly enough, Mark 8.22-26 presents us with a story of visual healing that is *gradual*. The whole flow of the passage is about the transition from unclear seeing to distinct clarity. Obviously the author has something to say about sight, given the mention of sight occurs in some form about 10-11 times! And not only in a physical sense, but also as an elaboration of the passage that precedes this text, and a foreshadowing of the narrative to follow.

Immediately before this event, the disciples were in need of food. Jesus took that moment to speak about the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod, but the disciples did not understand. They thought Jesus was getting onto them because they did not have enough bread. Jesus reprimands with, "Do you still not perceive or understand?" (verse 17). He really wants the disciples to *truly* see. Immediately following is the healing of the blind man who *gradually* sees. Following this is Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah, only to realize that he has partially understood what he confessed. He finds himself rebuked by Jesus (verse 33). Peter, too, is gradually seeing Jesus for who He truly is.

The narrative is soaked in a movement from lack of clarity to distinct lucidity of who Jesus is. Is it any wonder that the Greek word for the blind man seeing "distinctly" (τηλαυγως; tay-low-goce) appears as a combination of two words, "far away" and "daylight/brightness"? To truly see is like the breaking in of the sun, peering over the horizon. It is like being able to see for miles because of the sun's radiance.

# SEE

LOOK IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY TRULY SEE

ARE YOU SURPRISED BY THE NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO SIGHT IN MARK 8.22-26? SKIM THROUGH THE PASSAGE AND COUNT HOW MANY REFERENCES OR OTHER WORDS CONCERNING SIGHT THERE ARE. WHAT IS THE AUTHOR TRYING TO COMMUNICATE?

DOES THE PREVIOUS SECTION BEFORE MARK 8.22-26 AND THE FOLLOWING SECTION BRING CLARITY TO THE AUTHOR'S INTENT?

"JESUS WANTS THE DISCIPLES TO *TRULY* SEE." WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS PHRASE? DOES THE WORD "PERCEIVE" HELP? WHAT MIGHT BE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "SEEING" AND "PERCEIVING"?

THIS PASSAGE CAN SERVE AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE STEADY AND SOMETIMES FUMBLING GROWTH OF ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS. IN WHAT ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE IS YOUR FAITH STRONG? ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GROW? WHAT ARE THEY?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another