

MARK 8:22-26 SEEING RIGHTLY

²² They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

It is one thing to receive a revelation, and quite another to understand its meaning. Even in our secular lives we experience events, hear conversations or give answers that leave us wondering just what all that meant. Usually we do not expend the energy to follow-up and find out. But in certain situations, we mull over the circumstances, delve into the possible consequences and ruminate on how it might shape our life. Which response we have to such a situation is usually dictated by our sense of whether or not it rings true.

Could this two-step healing of the blind man have been an encouragement to the disciples who were having a hard time getting their heads and hearts around the identity of their Master? Might it also be an encouragement to us as we attempt to live faithful lives in this world?

Through the Holy Spirit, the truth of the Gospel has been revealed to us, but we struggle with its application to our lives. To one extent or another, we are all facing the question of what it all really means. Where do we go for answers? To whom do we go for clarification? In the human experience, the answer is sought in many places, including our egos and desires, our friends and family, our church or small group Bible study or even a conference or retreat. These are all appropriate places for discernment, if they are kept in their proper context. That context, of course, is Jesus Christ. First and foremost, Jesus is the One who will bring clarity. He will not leave us with half-truths and misunderstandings if we will only turn to him and allow him to fully heal us.

It took two tries to heal the blind man's sight completely. It took many more touches by the Master to heal the sight of his disciples. What about you? What keeps you from repeatedly seeking clarity from Jesus?

Jesus, open my eyes that I might see you as you really are. Open my heart so that I might love you through my obedience to you. Open my mind so that I might depend upon you for the truth and continually return to you for the clarification of my understanding. Amen.