

**“Jesus the Eye-Opener”**  
May 18, 2014

**MARK 8:1-26**

**PROP**- It's possible to observe Jesus—without clearly seeing Him.

Yet, if we let Him, He can open the “eyes of our hearts!”

Jesus said, “If your eyes are healthy—your whole body will be full of light” (Matt. 6:22). He can bring healing to our eyes & understanding to our hearts.

**1. The SUBTLE, yet DEVASTATING, EFFECT of UNBELIEF**

- By this time, His disciples had witnessed many miracles
  - Diseases, demons, deafness, death.
  - Had seen a paralyzed man walk; and Jesus walk on water.
  - Jesus stopped a demonic storm at sea—and cleansed a man of a legion of demons.
  - They had seen Jesus feed a crowd of 10,000 with a few pieces of bread and fish...
- Yet, when faced with a similar obstacle (i.e., lots of people and very little food) they failed to believe He could do another miracle
  - Jesus identified their root issue: “your hearts (are) *hardened*”  
Lit- “*become callous; lose the ability to perceive*”
  - Then He warned them: “Watch out for the yeast (of unbelief).”
    - “Herod”- God does not exist
    - “Pharisees”- God is uninvolved & unable to help
    - Either way—WE are IN CHARGE (“Puffs up; fills w/ air”)
      - “MY perspectives & MY provisions...
      - ...are more important than HIS promises & HIS presence!”
- The “spirit of UNBELIEF”-
  - Taunts- “Prove it!”
  - Taints- Sees, but never changes (i.e., Under the influence of this spirit, Pharisees could have seen 1,000 miracles—yet never changed their opinion) Jesus refused to patronize this spirit.
  - Never trusts- Lit.- “*the stubborn refusal to believe*”
- Jesus called them to two heart changes (i.e., “repent”):
  - “Understand”- “*Stand under My influence*” (NOTE: The 2<sup>nd</sup> miracle has 7 man-sized baskets left over; much more than 12 small baskets)
  - “Remember”- (More than mental recollection) “*Experience a total reconnection. Remain in vital harmony with Me (i.e., reconnecting a severed finger)*”

## 2. The POWERFUL, PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF JESUS

(Immediately after this account of the disciples' struggle with unbelief, Mark includes this story of Jesus healing a blind man. Mark is the only Gospel writer to include this story. It appears to be included here to illustrate—in a physical way—what the disciples are wrestling with spiritually.)

- This is the only (recorded) time Jesus asked someone if they were healed
- This is the only (recorded) account of a “progressive” healing (NOTE: This man most likely had not been born blind, since he knew what a man looked like and what a tree looked like)
- Illustrates the nature of revelation:
  - Just because we can see *some* truth—doesn't mean we know *all* truth.
    - We can be confident in what He has revealed to us—while remaining open to new revelations.
    - Paul was confident: “I know whom I have believed. I am persuaded” (1 Timothy 1:12); “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus” (Romans 1:16), etc.
    - Paul was teachable: “Now we know *in part*” (1 Cor. 13:9); “I want to know Christ...not that I have already obtained this...but I press on to take hold of it” (Phil. 3:10-12)
  - Just because we see some things—doesn't mean we see *everything clearly*.
    - Peter (Mark 8:27-29) receives revelation from the Father that Jesus is the Messiah...
    - yet, he did not understand the need for Jesus to go to the Cross...to the point of resisting Jesus!
    - (i.e., “You are Lord. Let me tell You what to do!?!?”)
  - Always seek more revelation—willing to learn even from those who disagree with us.
    - Our fear of “compromise” can keep us from a more “comprehensive” view of Jesus
    - Ephesians 3:18- Together, we discover “the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. Endless love beyond measurement, beyond academic knowledge—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God.” (The Passion Translation)
    - If we are only willing to listen to those who agree with us—how will we ever correct our *misunderstandings*?

**CONCLUSION-** “Be generous with me and I'll live a full life; not for a minute will I take my eyes off your road. Open my eyes so I can see what you show me of your miracle-wonders.” (Psalm 119:17 MSG)