

D. Spiritual blindness is cured by the touch of Jesus, not by our own efforts.

E. Spiritual blindness is cured in community.

Application

1. Spiritual blindness is cured in stages. Expect some Christians will not yet be clear about who Jesus is and all that Jesus has done.
2. Spiritual blindness is cured in community. Blind people can not find their way to Jesus. They need someone to bring them to him.

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 8:22-30 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. The stages of this man's healing from physical blindness is a parable to show us the way God cures spiritual blindness in stages, just like he did for Peter. When you first trusted in Jesus, how was your vision of who Jesus is and what Jesus had done for you still fuzzy? How does knowing God cures spiritual blindness in stages give you more grace toward those who are less spiritually mature?
3. Spiritual blindness is always cured by a miraculous touch from Jesus, not from using our own strength to try harder. How does knowing that Jesus is always the one that cures spiritual blindness and that he does it in stages, give us guidance on what we should do when we are struggling with spiritual maturity?
4. The healing of the blind man taught us how spiritual maturity happens. How do these passages help us understand what else is involved in the process of spiritual maturity? Proverbs 4:18-19; John 15:1-8, 2 Peter 1:3-11.
5. A big part of this blind man's cure was that his friends loved him enough to bring him to Jesus. What do these passages teach us about the role God gives us to play in bringing others to faith? John 1:43-51, John 4:27-30, Matthew 28:4-7.



Mark 8:22-30 – Jesus Cures Spiritual Blindness

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1. Jesus gave more than enough evidence of his identity — Mark 1:1-8:21.

A. Jesus cured the leper.

Jesus makes something out of nothing. He is the creator of Genesis.

B. Jesus cured the paralytic.

Jesus forgave sins, which is something only God can do.

C. Jesus calmed a storm.

Only God can command creation with his voice.

D. Jesus cast a legion of demons out of a man.

The demons were afraid Jesus would send them to the abyss to await the final day of judgment. That is something only God has the authority to accomplish.

E. Jesus raised a young girl from the dead.

Only God can raise the dead.

F. Jesus fed the 5,000 and the 4,000.

Jesus is the God of the Old Testament who fed his people in the wilderness.

G. Jesus gave hearing and speech to a deaf-mute man.

Only God can implant in the brain understanding of a language someone has never heard and the ability to speak a language someone has never spoken.

The religious leaders still did not understand the identity of Jesus.

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. Mark 8:11–13 (ESV)

The disciples still did not understand the identity of Jesus.

Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?" Mark 8:14–21 (ESV)

2. Jesus cures spiritual blindness — Mark 8:22-30.

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,... Mark 8:22–23 (ESV)

A. Jesus cures spiritual blindness in stages.

...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. Mark 8:23–25 (ESV)

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 16:16–17 (ESV)

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Mark 8:31–33 (ESV)

B. Everyone starts off spiritually blind.

C. Since spiritual blindness is cured in stages, expect all Christians will NOT be crystal clear about who Jesus is and what he has done.