

Was Blind, But now . . .

Key Scriptures

Mk. 8:17-31 ¹⁷ . . . But Jesus, said to them . . . Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? ¹⁸ "Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹ "When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." ²⁰ "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." ²¹ So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?" ²² Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³ So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴ And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." ²⁵ Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁷ Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" ²⁸ So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. ³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Key Point: Who is Jesus to you?

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Favorite "Easter candy?" (Peeps, chocolate, Jelly beans etc.?)

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Some people have thought that Jesus feeding the 5,000, and feeding the 4,000 was really only one event. What details stand out that let you know this was two events? (Cf. the 5,000: Matt 14:15-21; Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:4-13: the 4,000 Matt 13:32-38; Mark 9:1-9)
- We know that teachers will often repeat lessons. Why do you think Jesus repeated a miracle for His disciples to participate in?
- Why is the resurrection considered to be the centerpiece and foundation of Christianity. (cf *1 Cor. 15:13-19*)
- When Jesus spoke about His upcoming death and resurrection, did the disciples understand? How do you know? (v. 32-33)

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do you think Jesus healed the blind man in two stages?
- In what ways were the disciples like the blind man with partially restored sight? How can we relate to this struggle?
- What are some presuppositions about God that we cling to, which keeps us from "seeing clearly?"
- What do you think Jesus meant when He spoke about the disciples "hardened heart?" How can we keep ourselves from this?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- In what ways do you "see men like trees walking?" In what ways do you need to ask God to help you see things more clearly? This week, how will you live like Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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