

Hidden in Plain Sight (Mark 8:22-26)

By Bob Young

How do we react to God's gracious gifts?

How can we appreciate the magnificence of what God has done for us?

Some people who meet Jesus are not significantly changed by their encounter.
But some who meet Jesus are changed forever.

Do you see Jesus? Clearly?

Although Jesus came to reveal God, he was often misunderstood, even by his closest disciples. Jesus is seen only by those who are open to seeing him. Jesus reveals himself to those around him, so they can live in open response.

How can devoted disciples in this day live lives of discipleship in our contemporary place and time?

Parabolic. How was Jesus hidden in plain sight? Who was he hidden from?

Begin in 7:31-37, parable of unbelief? Why did Jesus sigh before the healing?

8:11-21, feeding, Pharisees ask for sign.

What are disciples concerned about (8:14)?

How did this concern affect their understanding in v. 15?

What is Jesus really talking about, 8:17-18?

This is all background for 8:22-26. But also have to set this text in context of Mark.

Who is Jesus? 1:1 vs. 15:41

Mighty in words and works

Note: lack of understanding, Messianic secret, amazement, fear/faith, touch, suffering

Who is a follower of Jesus?

First blind man story coupled with Peter's confession/boldness/predicted denial

Passion prediction #1:

lack of understanding—Peter's indignation

Identity story: transfiguration

Who can be a follower: father/son, one who will exercise even a little faith

Passion prediction #2:

afraid to ask, lack of understanding—greatness arguments

Identity stories: Who is for/like Jesus, children, families, relationships, children

Who can be a follower: rich young ruler, one who will give all

Passion prediction #3:

Amazement, disciples astonished, still without understanding—request of Peter and John

Identity story: Who is for/like Jesus, those who will serve

Who can be a follower: Bartimaeus, one will genuinely see. Do you see Jesus clearly? What are the characteristics of a person who sees Jesus clearly?

What kind of Jesus does one see in Mark's gospel when one sees clearly?

Parable of faith journey of disciples, of every believer.

From tentative steps, adopting the Jesus life in stages, to little faith that accomplishes much, to giving self unselfishly, to serving.

I was blind, but now I see.