



## Something Just Isn't Right

1. Read Pastor Hankins Scripture - Mark 8:22-26
  - a. *22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 **And he looked up and said, "I see men, but they look like trees, walking."** 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."*  
Mark 8:22-26 | ESV
2. In some ways, what we see determines how we act; determines our behavior. We must acknowledge that the eyes are not the only things, but all our senses help to drive our behavior; what we hear, what we smell, and what we touch.
3. Today our study is focused on the impact of our eyes on our behavior, using this example of blindness in our text.
  - a. Blindness is the inability to see anything, including **light**.
    - i. Scripture often teaches us about the difference between light and darkness. **Light and darkness** together describe the opposite ends of a good-evil dualism that pervades biblical symbolic language. Examples.
      1. *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12|NIV)
      2. *Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light."* (John 12:35-36 |NIV)
      3. *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor 4:6 |NIV)*
      4. *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7 |NIV)*
    - b. **Physical blindness** was common in the ancient Near East and is still prevalent among the poor and tribal peoples lacking the benefits of modern medicine.
      - i. Jesus' healing ministry brought sight to the blind in fulfillment of prophecy - *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me*

*to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and **recovery of sight for the blind**, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Lk 4:18-19).*

- ii. His ability to restore vision was one of the proofs given to John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah - <sup>4</sup>*Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>**The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.** <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” (Mt 11:5).*
  - iii. Jesus healed two blind men in Galilee (Matt 9:27–30), one blind man in Bethsaida (Mk 8:22–26), a man blind from birth in Jerusalem (Jn 9), and a blind beggar named Bartimaeus and his friend at Jericho (Mk 10:46–52)
  - iv. At times, Jesus commanded immediate restoration (Mk 10:52). On other occasions he used “means” such as clay and water (Jn 9:6–11) or his own saliva here in our text.
- c. **Spiritual blindness** is a figurative way of defining the lost and hopeless condition of sinful humanity. Such blindness includes willful rejection of God’s revelation in his creation and in Scripture, and an inability to see the truth of the gospel.
- i. Moses spoke of Israel’s apostasy as “blindness” (Dt 29:4)
  - ii. Isaiah called it “dim” eyes (see Is 6:10, NASB).
  - iii. Jesus charged the Pharisees with unbelief that made them “blind guides of the blind” (Mt 15:14; 23:16).
- d. **Spiritual blindness** is related to “hardness of heart” (Mk 8:17–18; Eph 4:17–18) and is understood as the judgment of God both upon unbelievers (Rom 1:20–21) and upon Israel (Is 29:10; Rom 11:7–8).
- i. According to Paul, it is also the work of Satan, who “*has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe*” (2 Cor 4:4).
  - ii. Healing from spiritual blindness is a special gift of God’s grace through the “new birth” (Jn 3:3) and by seeing “the glorious light of the Good News” (2 Cor 4:4, NLT).
4. **Do addition study** of blind eyes, blind faith, blind justice and blind emotions.
5. **Other notes to consider:**
- a. Things happen to make the lights go out and our response is to stop and fix it because we thought something was wrong; trying to fix things that are not broken. Our perception is flawed. The problem is not it the problem is you.
  - b. Maybe your mind must be transformed - <sup>2</sup>*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* (Romans 12:2)
  - c. We must elevate our thoughts - <sup>8</sup>*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things* (Phil 4:8)
  - d. It is time to come up. Up means a higher position. People will rather fight for a lie then stand for the truth.
  - e. The text teaches us that insight may not come instantly.

- f. Always be mindful that there can be two kinds of people; helpers and hinderers; those that bless and those that are burdens; those that are positive and those that are negative.
- g. You must deal with your issue even when it's not affecting anybody but you.