

PERSONAL, PROGRESSIVE HEALING ... LED BY JESUS

Mark 8:22-25

*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.*

This is a most unusual miracle. It is not to be confused with a similar account in John 9 where Jesus healed another blind man by spitting in clay and making mud. With all these occurrences and miracles of Jesus we should never form doctrinal truth. They do however guide us and bring practical lessons from which we can glean. I see the lessons here as more practical lessons revealing **HOW GOD WORKS IN HEALING** and teaching us **HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND**. There are **HIDDEN GEMS** in this story – **LITTLE TREASURES** that are encouraging ... empathetic ... and informative.

The first thing we read is ...

Mark 8:22 **SLIDE**

... *They* brought the blind-man to Jesus ...

'THEY'

We have to ask ourselves ... **WHO ARE 'THEY'?** ... 'THEY' ARE BELIEVERS. **'THEY'** are people just like you and me. Who else sees Jesus as the answer to a person's problem? Who else cares enough to bring a person to Jesus? **'THEY'** believed that Jesus was the answer for this man.

'THEY' BROUGHT THIS MAN TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

Jesus IS the answer for your life and your problem.

The woman with the issue of blood (Haemophilia) had spent all her money trying every other cure and yet ... ONE TOUCH OF JESUS CURED HER INSTANTLY (Luke 8).

Jesus said, 'Essence flowed out of Me.' This was the power of His sinless life flowing out of Him and into her and there can be NO SICKNESS IF THERE IS NO RULING SIN.

JESUS' HEALTH HEALS THE UNHEALTHY.

SO **'THEY'** BROUGHT THIS BLIND-MAN TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

HOWEVER, like many caring believers **'THEY' DIDN'T LEAVE IT THERE ... They** went on to tell Jesus how He should do it. *They begged Jesus to heal him* a certain way i.e. by touching him.

Mark 8:22 **SLIDE**

... They begged Him [Jesus] to touch him.

THEY THOUGHT THAT 'JESUS TOUCHING PEOPLE' WAS ALWAYS THE WAY PEOPLE WERE HEALED. HE'D DONE IT SO MANY TIMES BEFORE THIS WAY... Look at ...

Mark 6:54-56 KJV

*'... As many as **touched Him** were made whole'.*

WE SO QUICKLY MAKE FORMULAS AND METHODS AS TO HOW SOMETHING WORKS OR NEEDS TO BE DONE BASED UPON WHAT WORKED BEFORE.

These believers thought Jesus NEEDED to touch the blind man.

For example: One time when we were singing, 'Made me Glad' which has the chorus, 'You are my strength, my shield, my portion, deliverer, my shelter, strong tower, my very present help in time of need.' I sensed 'The Holy Spirit was present to heal'. So I announced it and exhorted people to receive healing as HE was present to heal. Well, afterwards 3 people testified to being healed of minor ailments.

NOW I HAVE SUNG THAT SONG MANY TIMES SINCE and that has never happened like that again. *It would be good if it did* but then we'd be trusting in a formula and not in 'being guided by the Lord' who is always present but always with a specific thing He wants to do. Churches often Repeat a song from the previous Sunday to achieve the same experience we had then.

IT'S TRUSTING IN A FORMAT OR METHOD.

WE RELIGIOUSLY RITUALISE THE THINGS THAT ONCE BROUGHT BLESSING. Just like *this blind man's friends who believed healing came from Jesus touching people ...*

THEN THERE ARE THE CONCERNED CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF SICK PEOPLE.

THEY OFFER ADVICE AS TO HOW SOMEONE CAN BE HEALED. 'DO THIS! DO THAT!'

For example: One woman says to another **SLIDE** *'You need to stop telling people you're sick and confess 33 times a day, 'By His Strips I am Healed'.*

One lady told me I had to listen to Kenneth Copeland within a week and renounce the spirit of the Masons.

SO EVEN **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS** FOR HEALING CAN BECOME OUR METHOD OF HEALING AND WE MISS THE MAN.

WE MUST LOOK PAST THE METHOD TO THE MAN BEHIND THE METHOD - JESUS CHRIST!

What is this telling us?

HERE'S THE LESSON WE NEED TO LEARN ...

1. **SLIDE** IT'S NOT THE METHOD THAT HEALS ... **IT'S THE MAN THAT HEALS**

THE MAN, CHRIST JESUS. It's 'the Son of Righteousness who has risen with Healing in HIS wings' (from Mal 4:2). HE HEALS.

WE SHOULD SEEK THE MAN BEFORE WE ASSUME A METHOD

Trusting in Methods is NOT trusting in God and takes Him out of the equation.

YOU DON'T NEED GOD WHEN YOU'VE GOT A METHOD OR A FORMULA.

Jesus mixed the methods up to show us **IT'S NOT THE METHOD THAT HEALS ... IT'S HIM.**

Sometimes we see Him healing by laying His hands on people.

Luke 4:40

*When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and **laying His hands on each one, He healed them'***

Other times, He often simply declared the healing.

*The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." **Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."** The man took Jesus at His word and departed. (From John 4:49-50NIV)*

GOD DOES THINGS HIS WAY IN HIS TIME ... USUALLY NOT ACCORDING TO OUR PLANS

John 5:8-9 NIV

*Then Jesus said to him, "**Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.**" At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked ...*

Jesus sent ten lepers to the priests ...

Today, Jesus still determines HOW He heals. Our Faith should be in Him and His instruction so that we follow Him and do things His way.

MAYBE JESUS WANTS TO HEAL YOU ANOTHER WAY! WHAT IS HE SAYING TO YOU ABOUT IT TODAY? HAVE YOU ASKED HIM?

I asked Him when I was diagnosed with cancer and He gave me wisdom which set my course ...

He said, 'This is not about healing ... This is about learning.'

So from that time on ... I sought to listen and learn from God Himself.

Mary said to Jesus ... 'Whatever He says for you to do ... do it'. (From John 2:5)

David inquired of the Lord nine times e.g. 1 Samuel 30:8, 2 Samuel 5:19.

In our passage we see JESUS SIDE-STEPPED THEIR BELIEF IN THE METHOD and 'spat' into the blind-man's eyes before He put His hands on him ...

The next thing we read is ...

Mark 8:23 SLIDE

So He took the blind man *by the hand* ...

JESUS TAKING HIM BY THE HAND – THIS IS JESUS' FIRST TOUCH OF THREE.

This shows Jesus' personal care for the man ... as He cares for every individual

SLIDE JESUS' FIRST TOUCH IS IN IDENTIFICATION BEFORE IT'S IN HEALING.

JESUS REACHED OUT & TOUCHED THIS MAN PERSONALLY IN HIS SUFFERING.

THIS IS WHERE HIS HEALING BEGAN.

JESUS FIRST TOUCHES US IN EMPATHY ... BEFORE HE LEAD US INTO VICTORY.

He touches us in friendship and acceptance before He touches us in healing.

HERE IS OUR LESSON ...

2. SLIDE JESUS STARTED HIM ON HIS PERSONAL JOURNEY TO HEALING.

N.B. THIS TIME HEALING WAS NOT INSTANTANEOUS ...

THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD HEALING ...

Now you are in the hand of the Saviour ... He will guide you personally ... one delicate step after another toward full recovery.

Don't let anyone tell you, you should be doing something else. JESUS IS PERSONALLY LEADING YOU ... GENTLY.

YOUR HEALING IS **PERSONAL** BETWEEN YOU & JESUS.

A MESSAGE FOR 'THEY'

At this point, 'THEY' (all of us concerned and well-meaning Christians) need to back off. Now we should cease our instruction and support the Lord's ministry to This Person.

Here we should offer encouragement for that person to trust in **Their Saviour** – to stay close to Jesus ... to hear Him ...

We should guide them back to Jesus.

I often ask people, 'What has the Lord said to you?'

One lady in desperate need said, 'I haven't heard the Lord say anything'.

Then she said, 'I did look at the stars early this morning and felt great peace'.

I said, 'That's Him. Peace is His signature. He's leading you through.'

It's amazing some of the things people tell me that God has said to them but they don't treasure it, value it or see the power of it. Some just throw it aside

as insignificant. But this is that still, small voice. It IS the key to your personal recovery. *(Mary treasured what Jesus said in her heart)*

WHERE DID JESUS LEAD HIM?

Mark 8:23 SLIDE

So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town ...

- **JESUS SEPARATED THE MAN FROM SOCIETY**

THE TOWN REPRESENTS ... TOWN-THINKING – the world with all its intensity ... pride ... ‘dog eat dog’ ... opinion ... strife ... the rat race ... **society’s prejudice**
JESUS SEPARATED THIS MAN FROM HIS NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENT.

- **JESUS ALSO SEPARATED THIS MAN FROM CHRISTIAN CONTROL**

Jesus also took the control out of this man’s friend’s hands. He led this man past the believers who had brought him. Past those who sincerely wanted to help him.

Even as the pastor of the church ... I can bring a person forward to ask Jesus to heal Him. At this point for any believer ... we have to hand the person over to Jesus and let Him lead them.

OUR JOB IS TO SUPPORT WHAT JESUS IS DOING IN THAT PERSON’S JOURNEY – To watch ... steer them back to Jesus again ... encourage ... exhort ... but never try and take control.

- **JESUS ALSO SEPARATED THIS MAN FROM DISTRACTION ...**

He leads him to a **private place** ... away from the ‘hustle and bustle’ and places Him alone before Jesus Himself – **ONE ON ONE WITH JESUS.**

HE CARES ABOUT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL. YOUR HEALING IS BETWEEN YOU & JESUS ... QUIET, PRIVATE & PERSONAL ...

HERE YOU CAN HEAR!

You can hear the still small voice ... ***YOUR TOWN-THINKING GROWS SILENT.*** You say, *‘But I should be doing more’* ... Worry and anxiety (which cause sickness) dissipate in this place ...

JESUS TAKES YOU OUT OF SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT ... INTO A QUIET REALM ... A SOLEMN TIME OF ONE ON ONE WITH YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR.

The next thing we read is ...

Mark 8:23-24 SLIDE

... And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴And he looked up and said, *"I see men like trees, walking."*

THIS MAN RECEIVED JESUS ESSENCE ... HIS SPITTLE ...

3. **SLIDE** THIS MAN SAW SPIRITUALLY BEFORE HE SAW PHYSICALLY.
**HEALING HAPPENS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION WHICH – AS BORN AGAIN
CHRISTIANS WE BELONG TO & SHOULD LIVE IN. THIS IS THE REALM OF FAITH.**
In this dimension ... we perceive things differently ... we perceive things spiritually ...

THE SUBSTANCE IS SOLID BUT THE DETAILS ARE UNCLEAR

WE RECEIVE SOMETHING IN OUR SPIRIT BEFORE IT MANIFESTS PHYSICALLY.

WE CAN SEE BEFORE WE SEE ... We see generally but no specific detail.

*During MY TIME OF RECOVERY FROM CANCER ... I saw in a haze ... I didn't see anything specific ... The promise sat **solidly** in the depths of my spirit.*

I KNEW EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE OK, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW.

My belief was in what I saw inside, and I didn't even look at the outside.

The specifics are up to the Lord. He will bring the detail to pass.

HEBREWS 11:13 **SLIDE** We are told in this verse that the men of faith in the Old Testament **saw the promises afar off**, were persuaded, embraced and confessed that they belonged to another world ...

Hebrews 11:3

The things which are seen were made from things unseen.

Hebrews 11:24, 27

Moses ... as seeing Him who is invisible.

**WE START TO LIVE IN ANOTHER REALM ... IT'S THE REALM OF FAITH WHERE EVEN
THOUGH WE DON'T SEE THE PHYSICAL SITUATION CHANGE ... YET WE SEE WHAT OUR
SPIRIT SEES ... WE DON'T LOOK AT THE PHYSICAL.**

LOOK & LISTEN TO YOUR SPIRIT ... THIS IS WHERE FAITH IS IN YOU. DWELL THERE.

This is The Secret Place of The Most High. (Psalm 91:1)

FAITH DOESN'T LOOK FOR PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Faith is its own evidence. 'THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. (Heb 11:1)

As a born again Christian, you already have Faith. If you are not yet born again then the gift and grace of God awaits for you to simply let go of your struggle and **say 'YES' to God.**

GOD DOESN'T EXPECT YOU TO TRY & 'MUSTER UP' FAITH.

Faith has been given or will be given to you the moment you respond to God's call on your life and believe.

BELIEF ... We choose to believe from the Faith we already have.

UNBELIEF ... We choose to not believe according to our natural thinking.

The next thing we read is ...

Mark 8:25 SLIDE

Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

- 4. SLIDE HEALING CAN BE GRADUAL ... NOT ALWAYS INSTANTANEOUS
WE SEE THIS HEALING TOOK TIME TO COME TO PASS.**

Unlike most other miracles Jesus did which were instant ... this miracle was gradual ... There was a time factor.

Unlike salvation which is never gradual (although a person's journey to the door of salvation can be a process) ... going through the door of salvation itself is an instant ... a complete change from death to life ... from condemnation to justification ... THERE IS NEVER ANYTHING GRADUAL ABOUT IT. NOBODY BECAME 'BORN AGAIN' BY DEGREES JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T BE HALF BORN OR HALF PREGNANT.

As this man rested and believed from the realm of faith ... he was led to the physical healing.

As I have experienced ... healing can be gradual. **This I call recovery.**

I can testify to my slow recovery from cancer so that there was not even any sign of scarring on my lymph nodes ... but that took over a year.

- 5. SLIDE JESUS WILL LEAD YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNEY ... ONE TOUCH AFTER ANOTHER**

STAY CLOSE TO JESUS ... REST IN THE REALM OF FAITH & HE WILL TOUCH YOU AGAIN & AGAIN TO BRING YOU THROUGH COMPLETELY.

I experienced many, many touches from the Lord along with words of assurance ... keeping me in the realm of Faith.

He led me through to complete recovery ...

BUT THE GREATER REWARD WAS LEARNING & LIVING & RESTING IN THE REALM OF FAITH

Mark 8:25 SLIDE

Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

Apologetics

I heard a 'Word of Faith' preacher teaching last week about healing and prosperity. I agreed with the first half of his message but when it came to the application of healing ... I absolutely disagreed ... not only scripturally but from my own experience. He said, 'Unlike the Old Testament people who waited for God to bring healing etc, because of the cross, we in the New Testament don't have to wait.'

The inference of course is 'Instant Healing' and 'Absolute Miracles'. He was ruling out any gradual divine healing. There is no time factor allowed ... We command it to happen, believe for it to happen and declare it already happened. THIS IS ERRONEOUS.

Healing has already happened positionally in Christ ... just as sanctification has already happened. But here's the question, 'How many of you are completely sanctified today?' No One?

That's because **what Christ has provided by Grace comes to pass in time by Grace**. One is grace accomplished (at the cross). The other is ongoing during time.

Titus 2:11-12

*For the grace of God that **brings** salvation **has appeared** to all men, **teaching** us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.*

The grace of God that **provides salvation** ... also now **applies salvation**. He does what is in His power and sovereignty by grace.

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The healing of the Blind-man who saw 'men as trees walking' (Mark 8:24), began long before he was physically healed!

His healing began when Jesus 'took him by the hand and led him out of town'. (Mark 8:23)

At this moment, Jesus personally connected with him, accepted him in his condition and led him away from his negative environment.

With this, the Blind-man could have thought, 'Where is He leading me? What is He doing? Why doesn't He just heal me like He did with others?'

But we assume he 'stilled his thoughts' let go fear and allowed himself to be led silently by Jesus ... wherever He was leading him. He trusted in Him!

So it is with us today: Your physical and emotional trauma will be healed by Jesus as you let Him personally take you by the hand, lead you out of your negative environment and bring you to a solitary place in the spirit, where He alone will minister to you personally.

It will happen His way, in His time.