

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 31, 2021

“The Gospel of Mark ~ Spiritual Blindness”

Mark 8:11-26

INTRODUCTION

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF PERMANENT SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

- They found _____ in their hatred of the light .
- They responded to additional light with more _____.
- Their rejection of the light inevitably leads them to _____.

Are there any areas in your heart or mind—any areas in your life—where you’re still blind to the truth of the Gospel.

What darkness might you have that still needs to be exposed to the light of Christ?

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me will not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46)

“He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son...” (Colossians 1:13)

#1. The _____ **blindness of the Pharisees.**

“The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, ‘Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.’” (Mark 8:11-12)

#2. The _____ **blindness of the disciples.**

“And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.” (Mark 8:13-14)

“For we see now in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Cor 13:12)

What areas of your heart, mind, or life are you still seeing “in a mirror dimly.”

Where might your faltering faith need to be strengthened and girded up?

#3. Temporary spiritual blindness _____.

“They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, ‘Can you see anything?’” (Mark 8:22-23)

JESUS’ COMPASSION

- He takes him _____.
- He _____ His intention to heal the man.
- He _____ the man.

“He asked him; ‘Do you see anything?’ And he looked up and said, ‘I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around.’” (Mark 8:23-24)

- He _____ him again.

“Then again he laid his hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.” (Mark 8:25)

Intently = *dialepo* =

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But at the judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you.” (Luke 10:13-14)

CONCLUSION

4 SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- It served as yet another reminder for them of Jesus’ _____.
- It provided the disciples another glimpse of the future _____.
- It marked a _____ in Jesus’ ministry.
- It served as an _____ of temporary spiritual blindness.

**How well do you see the things of the kingdom?
Do you want your spiritual eyes opened even more?**

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

“The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down. The Lord loves the godly.” (Psalm 146:8)

When it comes to physical sight, many of us here this morning don’t have 20/20 vision?

How would you describe your spiritual vision?