

# *Missions' Vision Distortion*

Mark 8:22-25



Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

23 And 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 upon him, **he asked him if he saw ought.**

24 And he looked up, and said, **I see men as trees, walking.**

25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.



Have you ever heard the old adage, “*Seeing is believing*”?

<https://mymodernmet.com/3d-schroder-staircase/>

“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.” —Albert Einstein

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/is-seeing-believing/#:~:text=“Seeing%20is%20believing%2C”%20right%3F%20Not%20necessarily.%20Visual%20illusions,does%20not%20correspond%20with%20what%20is%20physically%20there.>



In spiritual matters, “seeing is believing” is not always true. “Believing is seeing” is a better perspective:

- ❖ Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ requires “...seeing him who is invisible.”

Heb. 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, **as seeing him who is invisible.**

- ❖ Believers need to remember...2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Let's consider the situation in our text:



# I. THE CONFRONTATION OF THE PROBLEM, 8:22

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

Bethsaida = “house of fish” → the city of Philip, Andrew, and Peter.

Jn. 1:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.



## A. The Right Decision, 8:22a

“...and they bring a blind man unto him...”

- ❖ The best soul-winning plan for believers is  
“ALL THE TIME – EVERYWHERE.”
- ❖ The focus is to bring sinners to the Savior for the cure of spiritual blindness.



2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

B. The Right Diagnosis, 8:22b “...and besought him to touch him.”

- ❖ The knowledge of the remedy was correct, but the results were individually determined.



## II. THE CURE FOR THE PATIENT, 8:23

Mark 8:23 And 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 upon him, **he asked him if he saw ought.**

A. The Lord's "methodology" is not the same with each individual, 8:23a "And 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 **upon him...**"





❖ The Lord condemned Bethsaida for their unbelief:

Mt. 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! **woe unto thee, Bethsaida!** for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

(Luke 10:13)

❖ The spiritual lesson, as well as the miracle, were missed by the city of Bethsaida.

❖ The way that the Lord brings someone to Himself is uniquely personal.



B. The Lord's message is not the same with each individual, 8:23b "...**he asked him if he saw ought.**"

- ❖ The way that the Lord leads someone in life is uniquely personal.
- ❖ The way that the Lord brings someone regarding Faith Promise giving is uniquely personal.



### III. THE CONFUSION FOR THE PRESENT, 8:24

Mark 8:24 And he looked up, and said, **I see men as trees, walking.**

A. Vision that is Distorted – Unclear  
Perception, “...I see...men as trees...walking...”

- ❖ No vision experience – he had a preconceived idea of a man, and of a tree.



- ❖ Believers are “aware” of the need for world evangelism, but not “passionately” aware enough to give sacrificially toward seeing more souls saved.
- ❖ Many have a distorted vision by focusing upon social solutions, like hospitals, etc. instead of planting local churches.

B. Vision that is Disregarded – Unaffected Personally



❖ Imagine the great things witnessed by the Israelites during the Exodus from Egypt, and consider how the Lord reminded them – **seeing was NOT believing!**

❖ The miracles were viewable but overlooked regarding God's purpose.

Ex. 19:4 **Ye have seen what I did** unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.



Num. 14:22 Because **all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness**, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Deut. 4:9 Only **take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently**, lest thou forget the things **which thine eyes have seen**, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deut. 10:21 He *is* thy praise, and he *is* thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, **which thine eyes have seen.**



Deut. 11:7 But **your eyes have seen** all the great acts of the LORD which he did.

Deut. 29:2 And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, **Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt** unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land;

Josh. 23:3 And **ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done** unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God *is* he that hath fought for you.



Josh. 24:7 And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and **your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt:** and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

- ❖ Believers have seen the transforming power of salvation, but not the need around the world.

#### IV. THE CLARITY WITH THE PROCEDURE, 8:25

Mark 8:25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and **he was restored, and saw every man clearly.**





A. The Man Received Another Respite –  
“...he put *his* hand again upon his eyes...”

- ❖ Believers need to be open to letting the Holy Spirit revive our mission vision – the need for missions’ conferences.

B. The Man Required Another Revision –  
“...and **made him look up...**”

- ❖ Believers need to be open to letting the Holy Spirit rekindle our focus of direction.
- ❖ Believers need to “look up,” and discern what heavenly vision God wants us to have.



C. The Man had the Result of Restoration –  
“...and he was restored and saw every man clearly.”

❖ Believers need to be open to letting the Holy Spirit restore our zeal for His harvest.

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.



8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, **and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.



## Summary

❖ Three prophets, seven times, asked “what seest thou?”

Jer. 1:11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, **what seest thou?** And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. ...

13 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, **What seest thou?** And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof *is* toward the north.



Jer. 24:3 Then said the LORD unto me, **What seest thou**, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.

Amos 7:8 And the LORD said unto me, Amos, **what seest thou?** And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

Amos 8:2 And he said, Amos, **what seest thou?** And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.



Zech. 4:2 And said unto me, **What seest thou?** And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which *are* upon the top thereof:

Zech. 5:2 And he said unto me, **What seest thou?** And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof *is* twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits.

- ❖ Believers need to remember the question, and the Scriptural answer:

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)



## Conclusion

1 Jn. 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which **we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon**, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and **we have seen it**, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which **we have seen** and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 Jn. 4:14 And **we have seen** and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

