

## **Jesus Heals a Blind Man (Mark 8:22-30)**

1. Read Mark 8:22-30 and watch the video. Given that only God can heal blindness (Ex 4:11), why did Jesus send the healed man back home but not into the village – wasn't this healing wonderful news?? (hint: Mark 1:40-45)

2. Before He became famous, Jesus sought to preach in synagogues – why?

And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1:38-39)

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**Teacher Notes**

Video Abstract (Author: Wild Stories About Jesus and Max7.org): This episode of WILD STORIES ABOUT JESUS retells Mark 8:22-30, highlighting Jesus healing a blind man at Bethsaida, as well as Jesus asking his disciples what people say about him. This video is suitable for showing in schools, kids' clubs and churches and could be helpful for family devotions.

Jesus and his disciples came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch and heal him. Taking the blind man's hand, Jesus led him out of the village. After spitting on his eyes and laying his hands on the man, he asked him, "Do you see anything?"

The man looked up and said, "I see people. They look like trees, only they are walking around."

Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again. He looked with his eyes wide open, his sight was restored, and he could see everything clearly. Then Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village!"

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him. (Mark 8:22-30, ESV)

1. Read Mark 8:22-30 and watch the video. Given that only God can heal blindness (Ex 4:11), why did Jesus send the healed man back home but not into the village – wasn't this healing wonderful news?? (hint: Mark 1:40-45)

Encourage the student to grapple with the text and to carefully observe other parts of the Bible to provide the explanation to perplexing passages. Help the student with questions to provoke their observation and thoughts.

Mark 1:40-45 was provided as a hint, because it explains why Jesus didn't want the healed man tell anyone:

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. (Mark 1:40-45)

Here the text indicates that Jesus' miraculous healing resulted in crowds, which forced His ministry from towns to open desolate places that were far from towns but more accommodative to crowds.

2. Before He became famous, Jesus sought to preach in synagogues – why?

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Inform the student: Bible study is hard, because to answer questions like this requires biblical knowledge. But if you take the time to learn more about God's word, you'll be blessed beyond measure. With a steady pace, take your time and carefully build your knowledge and understanding; but, it takes discipline to train your mind just like training your muscles for a sport.

To help the student, direct their attention to John 10:24-30:

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:24-30, ESV)

Help the student with his observation by asking questions:

1. Who are the sheep?

Answer – They are Believers.

2. Who are in God's possession who can be given to Jesus? This is a difficult question; but the answer can be seen in Exodus 19:

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, **you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples**, for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Ex 19:5-6, ESV)

Here God is speaking in the context of the Mosaic Covenant (Old Covenant). The genuine Old Testament Believer are believers of God, know God's word and be obedient to it.

These Believers would know Jesus is the Messiah Son of David spoken of in the Old Testament who came to save by the testimony of God's word, the testimony of John the Baptist, and the testimony of Jesus' work of miracles. These Old Testament Believers would hear Jesus' voice and follow Him as mediator of the New Covenant.

3. Why did Jesus want to preach in synagogues?

Jesus preferred to enter the towns where the synagogues were located, because He was seeking the un-shepherded Jew – genuine Old Testament Believers who were "lost" and bereft of a legitimate priesthood (Matt 10:1-6; 15:21-28; Rom 1:16-17). Jesus sought to bring these Believers under the broken Mosaic Covenant (Old Testament / Covenant) to the New Covenant.

4. Were the Jewish religious authorities, demanding to know if Jesus was the Christ (Messiah), genuine Old Testament Believers?

Answer – No, not at all.