

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

### J. Jesus Withdraws to the Gentile Regions Surrounding Galilee

#### The DAILY JESUS NEWS #126

##### 6. Miracle #24: Jesus Heals Another Blind Man MK 8.22-26

22 <sup>M</sup>They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and pleaded with Jesus to touch him. 23 Having taken the blind man by the hand, Jesus led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked,

22-

*"Are you seeing anything?"*

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he was looking at everything clearly.

26 Jesus sent him home, after commanding him, *"Don't even go into the village."*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are in red italics*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Bethsaida
Timeline	May-June (Month 27 or 28)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	J. Jesus Withdraws to the Gentile Regions Surrounding Galilee
Title	6. Miracle #24: Jesus Heals Another Blind Man

#### COMMENT:

Jesus and the Twelve headed for the Gentile city of Caesarea Philippi, located about 40 miles (65 km) north of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was withdrawing for the second time from Galilee. Their route took them close by the village of Bethsaida, where they probably chose to buy food there for the journey. Some people in the town recognized Jesus, and brought a blind man to him to be healed. They were not disappointed. Several things about this healing miracle stand out.

First, Mark is the only gospel writer who told about this healing. Second, this was the second of three times Jesus used his spit in healing. While this seems strange today, in Jesus' time it was commonly thought that the spit of a first-born son had healing powers. While Jesus did not rely on any other power than the Holy Spirit in performing miracles, his use of spit would have encouraged the faith of those who received ministry from him to expect something from him. It showed them that he was about to heal them. Especially for a blind person, the sound and feel of spit would have made a strong impression.

The most unusual thing about this miracle is that Jesus performed it in two phases. It was not that Jesus lacked enough power to carry out the healing instantly. The two-stage aspect of this miracle is actually powerful proof of its authenticity. Why is that?

## **Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry**

### **J. Jesus Withdraws to the Gentile Regions Surrounding Galilee**

The ability to see combines our physical and mental capacities. The eyes, nerves, and brain respond to the photons that we call "light" in a physical process. In order to see, all this physical equipment must be whole. The first phase of Jesus' healing made the physical hardware whole again. However, the mental/psychological dimension of sight is also necessary.

A person who has never used their mind to process the neurological stimulation caused by photons will be unable to cope with all the new information flooding their brain. The difference between the images of objects they begin to "see" in their brains, and the images they imagined when they were still blind will confuse them. Patients who have been given sight for the first time through surgery report this mental confusion in their inability to organize the information their brains are receiving. Like the man Jesus healed, they will see people "like trees walking about."

Jesus knew there was a mental as well as a physical aspect of sight. This was why Jesus asked the man how his sight was functioning. When the man reported problems in his vision, Jesus supernaturally reprogrammed his brain to be able to make sense out of the data without a prolonged time of adjustment. Jesus knew how to make the man fully whole, and he did it with a knowledge and wisdom that modern medicine cannot attain to. Only God can "reprogram" a person's mind instantly.

Finally, we note how Mark's inclusion of this miracle fits perfectly into the flow of events at this particular point in Jesus' ministry. Jesus had rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees for their spiritual blindness. He had just asked his disciples if they, too, had "eyes, but fail to see." This physical miracle revealed Jesus to be "the light of the world," the giver of both physical and spiritual sight. The disciples were in need of ever more spiritual sight from Jesus.

#### **APPLICATION:**

No one in the first century understood the ability to see as both a physical and mental/psychological process. It would take another 1900 years for science and medicine to develop to that point. This two-stage healing miracle of Jesus authenticates the truthfulness of the account in a way that Mark could not comprehend when he wrote it. He could not have anticipated the insights of science that were still 1900 years in the future. He simply reported what happened.

All of the words and deeds of Jesus recorded in the gospels are truthful and accurate accounts. This particular one gives us unique insight into the reliability of the four gospels.

*What particular promise, teaching, or command of Jesus do you need to rely upon today, because it is truth?*

*In what part of your life do you need more light from Jesus to see clearly?*