

Session 8

Seeing Clearly

A reflection on Mark 8:22-26 and 10:46-52

By Carrie Guerra

What I often take away from these stories, aside from the miraculous power and compassion we find in Christ, is the gradual nature of the first healing and the question Jesus asks in the second healing. There are many healing stories in the New Testament, and whenever there is something unusual about a healing, I try to pay attention to what that difference has to teach me.

In my life, I am sometimes waiting for the big, instant impact of God in answer to my prayers. However, when I focus on that, I miss out on the gradual healing that is all around me. I wonder if the man was disappointed when at first he could see only people that looked like walking trees. I wonder if he was happy to see at all after being blind, or if was waiting for complete healing. Sometimes, I believe, the miracles that happen in my life are more of a process than an event. I hope to see the miraculous in the process.

In the second story about the blind man named Bartimaeus, we see Jesus ask the man, "What do you want me to do for you?" I am certain that being a blind beggar, Bartimaeus had many difficulties, but he asked for healing for the one thing completely out of his control – his blindness. He then used the gift he had been given and followed Christ. I would like to strive to ask God for the things out of my control that will help me to follow Him. It is also significant that Christ asks the question of the man. When I have occasion to help others, I often help

them in the manner I believe they should be helped without asking that one question. I am thankful that God knows me and what I need, even at the times I cannot put it into words.

These stories of blindness and healing have the power to teach us much about seeing more clearly.

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