

## TOUCHED TWICE BY GRACE FOR A LIFETIME OF DEVOTION

### THE BLIND MAN

Excited! Intrigued! Somewhat baffled! The story of this particular person has always given me something to think about, it is full of mystery, it is full of suspense and it's intimidating. I guess I can speak for many Bible students when it comes to the interpretation of why Jesus had to touch a man twice in order for him to see clearly. Touched twice by grace for a lifetime of devotion.

Surely we know that Jesus Christ had the power to simply speak the word and cause the man to see. This is why I am full of questions concerning this blind man. There were times that Jesus simply spoke the word and it happened, there were times that he touched people and immediately they were healed. So to ask, Lord why did you have to touch this man twice? Is not unusual. I believe it is a question that requires a response. I would think that there was enough grace in the hand of Jesus to bring forth this man's healing. Just to be touched by Jesus radically changes our lives.

Jesus came to Bethsaida where he was greeted by people who brought to him a blind man so that he can heal him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, he put his hands upon him, he asked him if he was able to see, the man looked up and replied to Jesus, "I see men as trees, walking." After that response Jesus put his hands again upon his eyes, and he made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly, Mk.8:22-25.

Some of the questions that I would like to ask are:

Why did Jesus take him by the hand?

Why did he take them out of town?

Why did he put spit on his eyes?

Why did he ask him if he could see?

Why did the man say that he sees men walking as trees?

Why did Jesus placed his hands on him a second time?

Why did he tell him to look up?

Why did the blind man see every man clearly after he was restored?

In order for us to see God's grace in this situation we need to understand the interpretation of Scripture. In order to draw the most clearest and possible answer would be to look at it theologically for a moment yet understanding it in a simple fashion. For us to draw the truth we need to understand the interpretation of what is written. We must never interpret Scripture based on our experience it must always be line upon line, precept upon precept, ruled upon rule, here a little and their little, Isa.28:10

The Lord used this unusual method of healing to teach us a lesson concerning his sovereignty, this simply means, because he wants to do it this way. We cannot question the sovereignty of God when he does something, it is totally in his power to do so. However I believe that we can see his mighty hand working to bring us to the place of sovereign grace.

### **The First Thing.**

Christ takes demand of the man's situation, he does something that is important, he takes the man by the hand. Whenever we come to Christ the first thing we need to do is allow him to take control so he can touch us by his grace. The creator has the right to touch his creation so that we might benefit from the kindness of his hand. How do you take someone by the hand except you put your hand upon their hand!

It is suggested that this town had seen miracles of Jesus but they had become somewhat skeptical about his ministry. Yet there were those who still believe that Jesus was authentic and that he had the power to heal anyone at anytime and anyplace. We see this truth evident in Nazareth the very place where the Lord lived, he could not do many miracles there because they did not believe on him. We see that only a few benefited from the grace that brings salvation, deliverance and healing. In every church meeting you will find that there are people who are there because they are skeptics of religion and not truly concerned about the grace of God and salvation.

This is why it is very possible that Jesus Christ took the man by the hand and led him outside of town where the skeptics would not speak doubtfully concerning the power of healing. I find it interesting that grace works better alone, where there is no one but only you and the Lord. Too many people can spoil the soup. When the Lord does the work privately it often results itself publicly, that is to say when we have been transformed by the Lord in the secret place he rewards us openly.

Even when a person has experienced the saving grace of God in a way that everyone sees it, he often takes people away by themselves to deal with them privately. God is not looking to shame anyone, but he is looking to make us sincere before him so that we can receive his justice, righteousness and peace.

### **The Second Thing.**

I want you to see the strange method that Jesus used to cause the man's healing, he put saliva on his eyes. Medically speaking there is no medicine in man's saliva, so what is the reason that he did this, it was truly to bring the man to put his faith totally upon the power of Christ. The law of the Jews did not permit for a person to spit on the Sabbath day, if you spat on the Sabbath you could pay a penalty for that, but to put saliva on a man's eyes was an insult to peoples intelligence.

Than they were those that believe that saliva was used to separate the eyelids. In ancient times some times it was required because the eyelids was somewhat gummed together in blind people. Others believe sometimes people needed an outward sign to receive an inner experience. The real purpose for this may not be completely revealed but Jesus did have a purpose for doing it.

I think the only problem that may arise concerning this method of healing is people will try to imitate the Lord in this fashion and this is totally unnecessary. I don't think it should be imitated

only because Jesus already proved the point, we don't need to go around spitting on people's eyes.

By Jesus placing his hands upon him brought confirmation of that which was about to take place, the man had an inward witness that he would be healed of his blindness or he would have never gone out of town with Jesus. He knew that to be with Jesus was safe, he knew that he could trust him because Jesus had a reputation of love.

Folks, you can trust the grace of God, it will never mislead you, never cheat you and it will always meet your need. Grace gives us the stimulation that we need and energizes us to go outside of town with Christ. It teaches us the importance of trust and gives us the assurance of faith.

### **The Third Thing.**

The important question that Jesus asked the blind man, "Do you see anything?" The man responded, "I see men walking as trees" I think that when Jesus asks, we must be totally honest with him. If the man would've lied and said I see clearly there would have never been the need for a second touch. I believe that this is one of the reasons that Jesus touched the man once and then asked the question.

What I am about to share with you concerning this man's blindness is something that I have meditated upon and could be a possible interpretation but I want you to understand this is totally my commentary upon reflecting on the story. I say this only because of certain phrases and words that were used to tell the story in the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible does not say that this man was born blind, So we have to take this into consideration especially when the Bible does mention about a man born blind, but this is not that man. There is a strong possibility that this man was blind because of his sin. What possibly was HIS SIN? The sin could have been that he was a chronically, pathological clinically acclaimed LIER or that he looked to man for his strength or some thing else. we must be very careful at times because sin can cause sickness and other things in our lives that will bring us much despair. We must be totally honest with God because he knows everything about us.

Grace brings us to a point where we have to be honest about our condition, if we are not then we would not be able to go on to the next phase of our growth in faith. Grace is everlasting, therefore we must understand that we grow in grace, we grow in measures. Grace teaches us the valuable lesson of trusting the Lord for our nourishment and our resource of true knowledge.

One of the things that I would like you to consider is the response of the man concerning what he saw. He said that he saw "Men walking as trees" This is an odd and very interesting term. How does he know what trees looked like, and how does he know what man looks like. What I am suggesting is that there is a chance that this man once was able too see and something must've happened to him that he became blind. It is one thing for people to bring a blind man to Jesus to be healed, but what if their motives was to see Jesus heal a man that once could

see, truly this would be a miracle. I am not saying that this was the case but it is something to think about because the man said he saw "Men walking around as trees" Perhaps he knew what a trees look like because he saw them before.

The man was honest in his response to Christ and that he saw men walking around as trees. Imagine that, not being able to see and the first time your eyes are open you see men shaped or in the form of trees! How many times do you look back in your own life before you came to Jesus for salvation. You see how the grace of God had touched you in so many ways and yet did not respond to commit your heart to Jesus. In my own life when I look back I can see his hand moving in so many ways and yet I did not go to him. I was still looking at men. It is an awful thing not to recognize grace when it is present.

### **The Fourth Thing.**

I want you to see that Jesus was gracious in placing his hands upon him a second time. This time Jesus asked him to do something, what he asked was not just logical but it was both logical and spiritual, he asked the man to look up. This is a remarkable saying, how many times in Scripture do you see Jesus telling people to look up. When people tell you to look up it is one thing, when the Lord tells you to look up you better watch out because something is about to happen, and it did; the man was healed from his blindness and from his shortsightedness. If praise is due to God then you ought to give praise right now to him for opening your eyes and allowing you to see his grace and salvation and his Son Jesus.

There has to come a time in our life when we're tired of looking at people to try to save us, We have to come to a point when we respond to God and look up to him who is our strength and power. He has the grace not only to save us, but to keep us. The Gospels reveal to us the beautiful plan of salvation, it assures us that we have a Savior that loves us so much that he gave himself for our sin, Rom.5:1:7. There are situations in our lives that we need a second touch of Grace, we need God to touch us in a special way, we need him to lead us to that place where we can only be satisfied with him. Just one glimpse of him is satisfying, just one drink and we shall never thirst again, Jn.4:1-24.

One thing is certain, this former blind man took his eyes off men and put them on Jesus. That's exactly what grace is supposed to do, it takes our focus off of humanity and places them upon Christ and he alone. The epilogue of grace is seated at the Right Hand of God the Father and we are simply too look to him who is our life.

Does not grace sometimes insult our intelligence. God's ways are not our ways and neither are his thoughts our thoughts; if we do not accepted his GRACE we will easily become disdained to the TRUTH of God by our natural logic. I believe knowledge and logic is good but only when it is used in coherence with the word of God. The Bible never contradicts itself.

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