

Mark 8:22-26

A Vision of the Kingdom

Proposition: *Christ will gradually but wholly heal spiritual blindness.*

I. Judgement Confirmed: A Vision of What the Kingdom Is Not.

- a. Jesus leads the blind man out of the village.
 - i. *Refusing the spectacle* that tends toward idolatry.
 - ii. *Rebuking worldly kingdoms* for their formality.
- b. Jesus tells the blind man not to reenter the village.
 - i. *Preventing the temptation* to his friends' formality.
 - ii. *Rejecting worldly solutions* to expand his kingdom.

II. Gradual Healing: A Vision of What the Kingdom Is.

- a. Jesus heals the blind man gradually.
 - i. Showing *his compassion* in accommodating weakness.
 1. Although powerful enough to *heal without means*.
 2. Although powerful enough to *heal immediately*.
 - ii. Showing *his wisdom* in instructing the Church.
 1. Leading by *catechizing* before *commanding*.
 2. Teaching *spiritual healing* through *physical blindness*.
- b. Jesus heals the blind man completely.
 - i. Showing *his power* over extraordinary challenges.
 1. Despite their *apparent insurmountability*.
 2. Despite his *apparent weakness*.
 - ii. Showing *his purpose* to complete every work he begins.
 1. Despite his *apparent failure*.
 2. Despite our *persistent blindness*.

III. Concluding Applications

- a. First, we must seek Jesus for sight.
 - i. *Leaving* the kingdom of the world by admitting out blindness and submitting to Christ's method of restoration.
 - ii. *Never going back* to the kingdom in the world, rejecting earthly solutions and obeying Jesus rather than human forms and traditions.
- b. Second, praise the Savior for this vision of his kingdom.
 - i. *Adoring* his compassion and wisdom in leading the blind out of the world to see the kingdom of God in himself.
 - ii. *Reverencing his power and purpose* to finish all he begins.
- c. Third, recall that everyone we meet is either blind or sees dimly.
 - i. Therefore, *be humble* as you teach others, particularly those weak in the faith, knowing how tenderly Christ teaches you.
 - ii. Therefore, *be zealous* to seek and save the lost, even as you see Christ going back to this condemned town for one lost lamb.

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