

Christ and the Expectations of Men (Mark 8:22-26)

- Chapter 8: 22-26 speaks of a group of people who had been touched by Christ
- They wanted to share it. We don't know in which way they had been touched
- It could have been salvation or His teaching or because he healed some one
- Whatever it was they eagerly desired the same thing for a blind friend
- Blindness, as with all physical ailments, was especially rife in Jesus day
- Lack of hygiene, lack of medical knowledge, no medication, left people blind.
- Clouded, staring, fly swarmed eyes were common wherever one went
- We can imagine his pathetic plight & at the same time appreciate his friends
- They believed Christ could heal their friend, & that belief was practical (v22)
- They were earnest & forceful in their appeal and they had great expectations

I. The Expectations of the Blind Man's Friends (v22)

- They believed bringing this man to Jesus and Jesus touching him was enough
- Likely they were Gentiles, & put more trust in Jesus' touch than Jesus himself
- This was the case with the bleeding woman (5:28) Jesus corrected her focus
- He healed her but then added "Daughter, your faith has healed you" (5:34)
- His friends rightly believed Jesus would heal him, but expected it in the wrong way
- What was the expectation of the blind man? Not very much! That was the problem.
- It was his friends' faith and belief that brought him to Jesus, not his (Matt 9:29)
- So Jesus' way was different with him, going through a progressively staged healing

II. The Blind Man's Expectation Transcended (vv. 23-25)

- Jesus took the blind man's hand (v.23) this was the awaited touch. Nothing happened. This was what the friends expected: If Jesus just touches our friend!
- Jesus held the man's hand, again to establish contact, he also isolated the man (v.23)
- Alone with the man, Jesus used tactile, sense-stimulating means to heighten his faith
- "Spittle & laying of hands" were perfectly understood in the ancient world
- In this, Jesus entered the thought world of the man & established contact with him
- Jesus removed his hands and asked the man "do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around" (23,24)
- Then the final touch came in v 25. Why did Jesus heal the man in this way?
- To strengthen & draw out the man's faith & teach us that His ways are above ours