

ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY BLIND?

--MARK 8:11-26--

INTRODUCTION:

When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which God had forbidden them to eat from, they plunged the world into spiritual blindness. Every person born into the world since that time has been born spiritually blind. For some people spiritual blindness is only temporary. God in His grace illumines some minds by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit causes some to see the light of the gospel and they come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. For others, their spiritual blindness is permanent and eternal. Rejecting the Lord Jesus and the salvation that He offers, means that a person remains in the total darkness of sinful rebellion and unbelief. For those who persist in rejecting the truth, there comes a point when God gives them over to the consequences of their unbelief.

I. PERMANENT SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS (Mark 8:11-13)

- a. Jesus and His disciples had just left the Decapolis and sailed across the _____ to the district of Dalmanutha.
- b. We are not told how long they were there before Jesus was approached by the _____.
- c. Within this confrontation with Jesus by the Pharisees we will see _____ characteristics of those who have permanent spiritual blindness.
- d. The first characteristic was that they found common ground with others in their _____ of the light.
- e. Driven by this mutual hatred for Jesus, a group consisting of Pharisees and _____ approached Him.
- f. The second characteristic of those who are permanently spiritually blind is that they respond to additional _____ with more intense rejection.
- g. Jesus responded to this delegation of Pharisees and Sadducees with a _____ in the form of a question.
- h. There was no reason that Jesus should perform another miracle, it would just compound their _____.

- i. The third characteristic of permanent spiritual blindness is that _____ rejection of the light will bring inescapable eternal darkness.
- j. Jesus leaving the Pharisees and Sadducees indicated more than just a _____ separation.

II. TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS (Mark 8:14-21)

- a. Jesus left the rebuked Pharisees and Sadducees and got into a boat with His disciples, and they _____ to the other side, the northeastern side of the Sea of Galilee.
- b. As they went across the lake this is one of the occasions that the disciples showed their lack of _____.
- c. Jesus wanted to teach them some important _____ concerning the religious leaders, truth that the disciples would need once Jesus departed from them.
- d. The Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Herodians comprised three _____ groups in first century Israel.
- e. The disciples responded by thinking that Jesus was talking about the fact that they had forgot to bring _____ with them.
- f. Though the disciples at times did not fully understand what Jesus was teaching them, their lack of spiritual understanding was not _____ like the Pharisees and Sadducees.

III. TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS ILLUSTRATED (Mark 8:22-26)

- a. Arriving on the other side of the lake, the _____ and Jesus came to the town of Bethsaida.
- b. Mark tells us that upon arriving a group of friends or family brought a _____ man to Jesus.
- c. The friends or relatives who brought this blind man to Jesus implored Him to _____ him.
- d. This is the only miracle of Jesus that He did in two steps, giving the man _____ sight, and then full 20/20 vision.
- e. Jesus then sent the man to his home and instructed him not to _____ the village. (Luke 10:13-14)

- f. Like I said, this _____ served as an illustration for the disciples of temporary spiritual blindness.

CONCLUSION:

As I close this morning, and I know this was a long message, but this passage could not be broken up because it all goes together. The setting in which this miracle is placed gives it significant meaning. It is no coincidence that the healing of the physically blind man immediately follows the demonstration of permanent spiritual blindness by the religious leaders and temporary spiritual blindness by the disciples.

This private miracle was performed by Jesus for His disciples, and it underscored a number of important truths for them. First, it served as a confirmation of Jesus' deity, since only God's power could open the eyes of the blind. Second, it provided the disciples with a glimpse of the future messianic kingdom when Christ will reign from Jerusalem for a thousand years. During that time, death and disease will be greatly reduced, including disabilities like blindness. Third, it marked a turning point in Jesus' ministry. The Lord's public ministry in Galilee was over, and His focus was on training His disciples. From this point forward, with the cross only months away, Jesus began to speak plainly to the Twelve about His coming death.

What about you? We are all born spiritually blind, but you can go to Jesus for healing. If you have already had your spiritual blindness healed through the saving work of Jesus, rejoice as you will one day enter into your eternal reward in heaven. If you have not had your spiritually blind eyes opened, you can today by repenting, which is acknowledging before God that you are a sinner and believing that Jesus Christ died for you, paid the penalty required for your sin, and that He rose from the dead on the third day victorious over death, sin, and Satan. When you believe this Jesus will open your spiritually blind eyes and you will understand the Scriptures like you never have before.