**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 18 The Blind Side to Sight**

**Walking with Jesus – in his steps – with his disciples - Gospel of Mark. Gospel = Good lifechanging amazing news of Jesus!**

**We are going verse by verse though the Gospel of Mark.**

**Mark 8:22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?” 24 He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.” 25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t even go into the village.”**

**There is more going on here than at the surface – as all of Jesus teaching, actions, and miracles were in large part – teachable moments for the disciples.**

**1st – Most Important Questions of Your Life! Asked by Jesus himself.**

**Q1 - What do you see? Do you see anything? (verse 23)**

**Lessons for the disciples from the healing**

**V25 – We must all recognize our blindness if we are to ever to see.**

**It is possible to have eyes and yet not see very clearly.**

**Homeless man Christopher - God is not real because there is too much bad in this world…**

**Paul giving his testimony - knocked blind, given sight Jesus told him - Acts 26: 17c I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’**

**V25 – Spiritual blindness is often healed gradually.**

**This could have been an instant healing… like all the others. But he decided to make it gradual.**

**Using this man as a living parable – Not only is our physical healing sometimes gradual but so is spiritual healing.**

**He had just said this to his disciples in vs 18. Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?**

**This miracle was a message to his disciple – you struggle to see – but you will. You will eventually see fully.**

**2 Pet. 3:18. HS causes us to “…grow in grace, (salvation) and in the knowledge (Understanding) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ…,”**

* **Are you growing in grace and knowledge?**

**V23 – It is the Lord who leads us to our sight.**

**We see an amazing example how Jesus leads us to the place of salvation. Every event, every circumstance, every tragedy…**

**When you were still blind – he was leading you. You started to see a little – still blind – but He is still working in you.**

**Looking back, can you see how Jesus was leading you?**

**V24 – Be honest about what you don’t see or understand.**

**His honesty led to his sight – he did not lie and say he was fine or that he could see. He was honest – “I still need help.”**

**Many gloss over their pain or need, pretending to understand or that they believe – Jesus is not afraid of honesty.**

**John 8:12 Jesus says “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**

* **Are you blind? Is your sight blurry?**

**Jesus then gives the disciples a – what do you see? – Question.**

**The Bible project Mark video –the turning point of the entire gospel.**

**Mark 8:27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” 28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.**

**29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” 30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.**

**2nd - Most Important Questions of Your Life! Asked by Jesus himself.**

**Q2 - “Who do you say I am?”**

**That is the greatest question about Jesus you will ever be asked.**

**Your answer is absolutely vital to your salvation.**

**You’re here today and watching – singing songs and reading the bible – listening – but who do you really think Jesus is?**

**Three options we see in society and church today**

**Myth – A lot of it is just made up anyway. Fairy tales & object lessons.**

**Many look at Jesus like that – loosely based on a real person, but it is good teaching – good moral lessons.**

**Man – He is just a man, prophet, mystic, teacher – a lot of embellished stuff like miracles and a resurrection.**

**Just a man who made mistakes probably. More a sad story.**

**Problem w/ the Teacher Rabbi / C.S. Lewis explains- Liar, Lunatic, Lord - “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.” (But some still contend he is man - if is just a man, then he is a madman!)**

**29b Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”**

**Messiah**

**There against that backdrop of pagan culture and false religion in Caesarea Philippi, Peter saw in a humble, homeless carpenter from Nazareth - God Himself.**

**More than a reformer, more than a prophet, more than a miracle worker, Peter looked at Jesus and saw the Messiah = “Christ” - The promised anointed One / The “Son of God.” – God in the flesh. What a statement!**

**It was at that moment – that Jesus first revealed his ultimate mission.**

**31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”**

**3rd - Most Important Questions of Your Life! Asked by Jesus himself.**

**Q3 - “Do you understand the cross?”**

**The problem is many say he is the messiah, but they actually pick and choose what they want to believe and try to correct or fix Jesus.**

* **If you call Jesus “Lord” but don’t believe and obey what he says your words are empty. They are just words.**

**If he is a myth – you can pick and choose what you believe.**

**If he is a man – you can pick and choose what you believe.**

**If he is the Messiah – Then follow him, don’t correct him.**

**If our definition of Jesus doesn’t change everything about us, then we might not have a biblical understanding of Jesus.**

**You can’t truly believe Jesus is Lord and live life as usual.**

**If you see Jesus as anything less than a cross – you miss it.**

**The truth is – the disciples were like that man who sight was healed gradually. They saw Jesus like trees walking – but were still a bit blind.**

**Peter saw the Messiah only as the embodiment of power and strength, instead of as a suffering servant.**

**But eventually they saw in full – and became the apostles.**

* **You don’t get to edit the cross**

**What Jesus was saying was not fitting with their perspective and plan - and wants. They had an idea of what the messiah was going to be, and it was not fitting their paradigm.**

**1 Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**Jesus told his disciple s- 31 …the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected… and that he must be killed… Must suffer, be rejected, be killed?**

**“He must suffer!!! Why Must he suffer? – for your sake!**

**For our sin. For reconciliation. For Our redemption. He took our place. He had to – His Love for us compelled him! They missed it at first… but they like the blind man – gradually saw it clearly.**

**Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

**Three greatest questions about Jesus you will ever be asked.**

* **Do you see anything?**
* **Who do you say Jesus is?**
* **What will you do with the Cross?**

**From this moment forward in Mark Jesus often mentions the cross and step by step is leading them to Jerusalem – and they followed.**

**Next week the greatest challenge and the theme of the entire gospel.**