



FIRST MARK: 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. "

What does this healing have to say to us about being a disciple of Jesus?

In Mark 7:33 Jesus heals a deaf/mute man in a very similar way.

- them aside
- Spit
- their ears and eyes are "opened"

In between the deaf man and the blind man is this teaching: Mk 8:17 Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?

They are not only acts of healing— Object lessons/ Parable!
We need Jesus to open the eyes/ ears of our heart—> see and hear God.

A DISCIPLE — Commits to becoming a life-long learner of Jesus
Matt 11:28 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me....

MARK—> REPENT... realign our thinking, our attitude and our lifestyle.
Mark 1:15 The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!

Gospel Dance: Repent—> Believe—> Obey

SECOND MARK: 27b On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"... 29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Here's the moment we've been waiting for! Disciples finally get it! KINDA.

Jesus begins with "What do people say?" "But what about YOU"

"Messiah" in Greek here is (Christos) Anointed One:

1. OT: Prophets, Priests, Kings...
2. Speaks truth, makes us right with God, deserve our complete allegiance

A DISCIPLE is someone who publicly and personally declares allegiance to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

Not allowing our fear of what others think to cause us to hide our faith.
Thru our words our actions & prayers... we declare our allegiance to Jesus.

THIRD MARK: 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.

- Commit to becoming a life-long learner of Jesus. Eyes/ears opened. Daily!
- Declares and professes their allegiance to Jesus as Savior

- Disciple EMBRACES Jesus' Cross for their life.

Above all... a disciple is someone who has received Jesus' death for them.

J. Edwards "Never in Israel was it heard that the Messiah should suffer"

Just like the blind man... Peter begins to see, Messiah!, but not clearly yet.
What I always love about Peter is that he speaks for all of us.
The deep resistance we all have to the CROSS OF JESUS.

THE CROSS DEFINES JESUS.

Jesus— "When Jesus went to the cross and died for our sins, he won through losing, he achieved our forgiveness on the cross by turning the values of the world on their head. He did not 'fight fire with fire'. He didn't come and raise an army... He didn't take power; he gave it up- and yet he triumphed." Tim Keller, Jesus the King, 112.
The only way Jesus could free us from our sin was to take on our sin...

Jesus loses so we can win... he dies so we can live... he becomes a sinner so we can become righteous... he's rejected so we can become accepted.

Jesus' death on the cross speaks to God's LOVE.

Gal 2:20 The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me.

THE CROSS DEFINES US. 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." 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Satan's power is in his ability to deceive us into resisting Jesus' cross rather than embracing it.

"We sin because we believe a lie about what will make us happy" JMC

Our unwillingness to trust God with our happiness vs what feels right to us.

REPENT is crucial in order to believe.

It's the way we put to death our will over God's will.

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened." — C.S. Lewis, <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1215780>.

Carrying our cross means— choosing God's will over our own... daily.