Eyes to See & Ears to Hear

Jesse LaRue · Mark 7:31–8:30

INTRODUCTION

- My purpose for this series of lessons is to help us to have a better understanding of just exactly who Jesus was and who he claimed to be.
- We want to see Jesus for exactly who he is and thereby deepen our faith in him.
- When we look at these cases in the Bible of people who were blind, there was no hope for them.

1 The Signs of the Messiah in Isaiah

Isaiah 29:18; Isaiah 35:5–6; Isaiah 42:6–7

- The Old Testament does not contain a single example of a miraculous healing of permanently blind eyes. Resurrection, yes. But blindness, no. And that all changed with the coming of Jesus.
- In that day … the deaf shall hear the words of a book. And out of their gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.
- It is a perfect metaphor for what happens when someone is lost in sin. They are in darkness, not in light.
- These literal occurrences were spiritual metaphors for what was going to come in the days of the Messiah.

2 Go and Tell John What You Hear and See

Matthew 11:2–5; John 9:39

- Are you the one who is to come? Or shall we look for another? And Jesus answered, Go and tell John what you hear and see.
- The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk. Lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.
- These physical miracles speak to having one's eyes opened spiritually.
- Jesus is the light of the world because he brings light to the blind.

3 Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

Mark 7:31–37

- He put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue and looked up into heaven, and he sighed and said to him, Ephatha, that is, be opened.
- Instead of just saying the words, he uses these physical means to heal the man.
- Sometimes we need to come into contact with Jesus.

4 Having Eyes Do You Not See?

Mark 8:1–10; Mark 8:11–13; Mark 8:14–21

- We note the disciples' hard hearts. Their inability to comprehend how Jesus could possibly feed this crowd, even though he had literally just done it in chapter 6.
- Jesus can make full out of the broken pieces in our lives. That's what he's showing us. He will feed, he will provide.
- God has already proven himself. And yet, how often do we demand that he do it again?
- Do you not yet perceive? Or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see? Having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?
- Why is this written down for us like this? One after the other after the other. Because we struggle with the very same things.

5 Jesus Heals a Blind Man in Bethsaida

Mark 8:22–26

- And he looked up and said, I see people, but they look like trees walking.
- Jesus never does anything without a purpose. It wasn't because he couldn't do it, certainly.
- This two staged healing likely indicated that while the disciples saw Jesus vaguely, with blurred vision. They did not yet see him for who he truly was.
- He wasn't really trying to teach a lesson to the blind man here. He's trying to teach a lesson to his disciples.

6 Peter Finally Gets It: You Are the Christ

Mark 8:27–30

- But who do you say that I am? And Peter answered him, You are the Christ.
- And yet Jesus accepts this. That should tell us something about who he is.
- Wait a second, only the Messiah is going to heal the blind. He is more than just a prophet. He is more than just a teacher. He is the Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Accept him. Submit to him. Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? Do you not yet understand that Jesus is Lord of all?

MY NOTES