I Can See Clearly Now

We live in a wonderful visual world. Everywhere we look there are amazing sites that our eyes can feast upon. Envision gazing at the vast rolling hills of Nebraska or watching water cascading down a cliff at Fort Falls. I enjoy looking out the window in an airplane and admiring the landscape stretching out for miles like a boundless patchwork quilt. Then there’s one-celled organism which can only be seen with the use of a powerful microscope. It’s like looking into a different world as you watch the flow of cytoplasm when the amoeba swims across your view.

Now think what it might be like to be blind. Imagine living in darkness all the time. Consider the social isolation, the rejection, the discrimination and the awkwardness with unfamiliar clutter you might experience day after day. Then one morning you meet Jesus and He floods your life with brilliance and color!

That’s exactly what happened to one blind man who lived almost 2,000 years ago. Through a bazaar miracle, Jesus not only restored this man’s sight; he also demonstrated how He can strengthen weak faith.

Jesus Heals the Blind Man from Bethsaida

Key Text: Mark 8:22-26

Mark 8:22—It is quite likely that this blind man was not born blind for the Bible normally records such information and as we will see later he already knew what some things were supposed to look like. We don’t know how this man became blind but we do know that he was thrust into a world of being misunderstood, lonely, and ridiculed. Many of the religious people suspected that blindness was caused by some great sin (John 9:1, 2).

Today blind people often suffer similar discrimination. Donnie Brown, a Seventh-day Adventist blind man says, “A lot of times blind people are shut out of churches. The opportunity to worship is not always there. Some people feel like we are dumb, possibly deaf and retarded. Because of the stereotypes society has of blind people, there is not always the opportunity for blind people to learn about Jesus Christ.”

His Friends Intervene—Notice that it is not the man’s faith that brings him to Jesus but his friend’s faith. Are you willing to expend your faith on behalf of your friends and relatives? If we don’t bring our friends to Jesus they may never find Him.

Mark 8:23a—Jesus led the man out of his town, out of his familiar surroundings to a place where, without Jesus, he would have been totally lost and helpless. Jesus often has to take us out of our comfort zones so that we can realize how completely we must rely on Him.

Jesus used an unusual two step process in healing this man.

1. Mark 8:23b, 24—First He spat on the man’s eyes and asked him if he could see anything. The man had some vision but it was not clear—an imperfect healing.

2. Mark 8:25—Second He put His hands on the man’s eyes and made him look up and his sight was made perfect.

Why the second touch? On the surface it would appear that Jesus had made a mistake the first time and then had to correct it. But I believe that this is an illustration of how God builds our faith. First He has to bring us to a place where we sense our need of Him. Then He touches us and light floods our lives. But our hearts are dull and we often have an incomplete understanding, and sometimes we understand things all wrong just like the man thought that men looked like walking trees. Sometimes our spiritual eyes are blurry and we can’t see His total provision.

Mark 6:30-44; Mark 8:1-9—After Jesus had just fed 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fish. His disciples still wondered how He could feed a crowd of only 4,000. Their faith vision was still blurry.

But Jesus is willing to touch our lives as many times as it takes to clear our vision. When Jesus touched the blind man’s eyes the second time He could see clearly. He had to touch His disciples many more times before their vision was finally cleared up and they found that they could trust Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:18—Jesus wants to touch our spiritual eyes of faith so that we can see that we can totally trust in Him.

Next Steps:

1. Choose a comfort item to fast from. Ask God to use this experience to move you out of your comfort zone and into more dependence upon Him.
2. Find a point of fear or weakness and ask God to touch you again.
3. Be you willing to expend your faith on behalf of your friends and relatives.