

# MARK 8:22-38

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Where do Jesus and His disciples go? What does Jesus do there? Describe the method that Jesus uses to heal the blind man.
2. What does Jesus tell the blind man after he heals him?
3. Where does Jesus go from Bethsaida (v. 27)?
4. Who were people saying that Jesus was? What does Peter say about Jesus? What warning does Jesus give to them?
5. What does Jesus tell His disciples in verse 31? Has Jesus ever told them this before? How does the passage describe Jesus "stating of the matter" (v.32)?
6. What does Peter do? How does Jesus respond to him? Who does Jesus see when he turns around (v. 33)?
7. What is the message that Jesus now gives the crowd (vs. 34-38)?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What is the significance of the story of the blind man? Why does Jesus heal the man in stages? Was he unable to do it immediately? If not, what purpose does the two-stage healing serve?
2. Did you have trouble with question 1? If so, connect the passage with the immediately preceding context. Note the words used in verse 15, 17, 18, 21 that have to do with vision. Now explain the healing of the blind man.
3. How does the healing of the blind man now relate to the following context (Verses 27-38)? What does Jesus want the disciples to "see"?
4. This is a key passage about the disciples confessing that Jesus is the Christ. Now that they recognize who Jesus is, He wants them to understand His mission. What does Jesus now for the first time reveal to the disciples and why does Peter rebuke Jesus?
5. Why does Jesus call Peter "Satan"?
6. How do you deny self? What is our cross? How would you explain verses 34-38 to a child?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. Is there any physical issue in your life that you would like for Jesus to heal? In what sense do we experience healing today? Does Jesus sometimes heal us in stages?
2. What are people saying about Christ today?
3. In what areas do you need to deny self?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.