

### **Introduction:-**

There are times when we really can't see the way ahead. Our problem appears to be too great for anyone to be able to help us.

- The blind man in our story knew his situation in life was never going to get any better. It would need a miracle from God.
- He could see no light at the end of the tunnel.
- In fact he couldn't have seen a tunnel because he was blind.

But with God what seems to be impossible can become possible.

- The blind man in the story was eventually healed. But how did it happen?
- What factors can we see leading to his wonderful recovery of sight?

We see in the story that he faced at least 4 major decisions and made 4 right choices. What were those choices?

### **1. HE CHOSE TO GET HELP FOR HIS NEED. 8:22**

**Mark 8:22** *They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him.*

The blind man could have had a victim mentality that prevented him from looking beyond his problem.

Eg. *"I'm a victim of the terrible tragedy. I was born blind."*

- He could have been full of self-pity. *Woe is me!*
- He could have felt that life was unfair and unjust. IT IS! But we all have to get over it and move on.
- He could have felt that life wasn't worth living with all the challenges he had to face.

BUT when the opportunity came to get help he grabbed it with both hands. He allowed his friends to take him to Jesus.

- Mark records that they *"were begging"* Jesus to touch him.
- They wanted the man to be healed of his blindness.
- His willingness to be brought to Jesus to get help was his first step towards his healing.

Thousands of people have come to this Cathedral over the last 46 years who felt that there was no answer to the problems that faced them.

- But friends encouraged them to come or even brought them.
- Their coming was a step in the right direction.
- By coming they were acknowledging their need and looking to Jesus to bring an answer to that need.
- I praise God that you are here tonight choosing to get help for the problem you face.
- Many people never get around to asking for help and James says of that sort of attitude, Jas 4:2 *You do not have, because you do not ask.*
- There's a beautiful Collect or prayer in the Anglican Prayer Book (Trinity 12), which says that God is *more ready to hear than we are to pray, and is willing to give more than we desire or deserve.*
- Our God is a giving God but He won't impose anything on those who don't want to receive it.
- The man's friends begged Jesus to heal their blind friend.
- The man himself chose to receive help from Jesus. A good decision

### **2. HE CHOSE TO TRUST JESUS. V.23**

**23** *He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?"*

He had never seen Jesus but he trusted himself into Jesus' hands.

- He allowed Jesus to take him by the hand outside the village.
- Why would Jesus have done that?
- It may have been to give the blind man a chance to focus on Him apart from a noisy crowd.
- There may have been another reason.
- Both Matthew and Luke record Jesus upbraiding the cities where he had done so many mighty works, and among them He included this city of Bethsaida. **Lk 10:13**, *"Woe to you Bethsaida, for if the mighty works done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for those cities on the day of judgment, than for you."*

- The miracles had produced amazement among the people of Bethsaida, but they didn't repent or trust in Jesus.
- It's perhaps significant that when the man is healed, Jesus tells him not to go back into the city.
- It was not a place where Jesus' ministry was welcomed or accepted. They would not appreciate another miracle in their midst.
- They would not rejoice with a blind man who was healed.
- But this blind man had the spiritual sight to recognise that he could trust Jesus.
- Jesus ministered to him. *23 ... when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?"*
- Something happened to the blind man. When Jesus asked him to tell Him what had happened, he made another wise decision.

### 3. HE CHOSE TO BE THANKFUL FOR ANY HEALING HE RECEIVED.

*24 And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking."*

- He replied that some healing had taken place. He was now aware of some shape and movement.
- He could see people walking, but they were more like trees than the clear picture of people.
- But he did something that is absolutely vital if we are going to receive blessing from the Lord.
- He affirmed what he had already received and he was grateful for it.
- It wasn't a full cure, but there was some degree of healing and he was very, very grateful.

Let's imagine what he could have done at that point instead, because it's what some of us do, when our healing isn't complete.

- He could have said that he hadn't been healed. There was some truth in that. He still couldn't see properly.
- But you see he had received some healing. It may not have been what he expected, but he acknowledged that Jesus had made a difference.
- He could have said that God doesn't heal today, because he still couldn't see properly. But he wasn't that negative. He didn't exaggerate the degree of healing, nor did he deny it. He told it as it was.
- He could have become bitter that he wasn't completely healed and gone away telling other people that Jesus couldn't heal.

But he recognised the degree of healing that he had and he was deeply grateful and said so.

He became a candidate for more healing. (Another good decision.)

He came to understand as we need to that even when Jesus healed it could come in stages and not always instantly.

We sometimes need to hang in for more healing with grateful hearts for what we have already received.

### 4. HE CHOSE TO BE OPEN TO RECEIVE MORE MINISTRY. 25

- *25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*
- There are sometimes people who will pour scorn on those who receive healing. If the healing isn't complete, they mock or ridicule.
- In the perversity of human nature, some people are happier when no healing takes place, than when it does.
- You and I need to maintain an openness to the Lord, right throughout our lives, and not to put limits on what we think He can do. He tells us in His word in Eph 3:20 that He is *able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*
- What God says to us in His word is that we can't even begin to imagine what He can do.
- We need to be open to experience more and more of His healing power and love which will always be beyond our comprehension.

This man allowed Jesus to minister a second touch to his eyes and the man *opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

- Other translations of this word to open his eyes (diablepo) say that he *looked intently* or peered or made his eyes come into focus. He tried to see.

- The man acted on the word of God coming through the lips of Jesus. He acted in faith. He tried to peer intently to see if he could see clearly (as perhaps we do when we squint) and as he did so, he saw clearly.
- The partial healing had become a complete cure.

Jesus often asked people to whom He ministered to try it out.

- He said to the man with a withered hand. Mat 12:13 *“Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.*
- He said to the paralysed man at the pool, Jn 5:8 *“Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”* 9 *And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.*

Faith is trusting Jesus and acting on His word.

That’s what this man did and it’s what you may need to do to receive the healing He has for you.

But it had needed all those elements of faith.

- i. A willingness and a choice to get help.
- ii. A willingness and a choice to trust Jesus to help.
- iii. A willingness and a choice to be thankful for help already received.

A willingness and a choice to be open to receive more healing and blessing from the Lord