

Opening Blind Eyes

Jesus in Action – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis – November 8, 2020

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Luke 4:18-19 (ESV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV) *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

1 John 2:11 (ESV) *But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

1. Meeting needs opens _____ eyes

Mark 8:2-3 (ESV) *“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”*

Mark 8:4-5 (ESV) *And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.”*

Mark 8:6 (ESV) *And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd.*

Mark 8:8-9 (ESV) *And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.*

2. _____ hearts lead to blindness

Mark 8:11-12 (ESV) *The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.”*

Mark 8:15 (ESV) *And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”*

Mark 8:17-18 (ESV) *And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”*

Mark 8:21 (ESV) *And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”*

3. Jesus gives new _____

Mark 8:22-23 (ESV) *And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?”*

Mark 8:24-25 (ESV) *And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read Mark 8).
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God’s Word this week? _____

Opening Blind Eyes Study Guide

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Intro. How would you define spiritual blindness?

Intro. In what ways do the kinds of people in Luke 4:18-19 have both physical and spiritual meanings?

Intro. What is the cause of spiritual blindness according to 2 Corinthians 4:4? How does this blindness happen?

Intro. Why must believers be careful to avoid spiritual blindness (1 John 2:11)?

1A. What was Jesus' motivation to help the people in Mark 8:2-3?

1B. What were the underlying reasons for both the disciples and Jesus' questions in Mark 8:4-5?

1C. Why do you think that Jesus involved His disciples in the feeding miracle (Mark 8:6)?

1D. Why do you think that the Scripture takes note of how many baskets of leftover food were collected (Mark 8:8-9)?

1E. What can Jesus' words and actions in this story teach us about our proper response in times of great need?

2A. What do you think were the real motives behind the Pharisees' search for a sign from Christ (Mark 8:11-12)?

2B. What was Jesus referring to when He spoke of the leaven of the Pharisees (Mark 8:15)?

2C. Why did the disciples not understand what Jesus was talking about (Mark 8:17-18, 21)?

2D. How can we avoid having a dulled perception of who Jesus is?

3A. Why do you think that physical touch is often associated with Jesus' healing ministry (Mark 8:22-23)?

3B. What does the gradual healing of the blind man teach us about praying for healing (Mark 8:24-25)?

3C. What does Jesus' healing of physical blindness show us about how He can heal spiritual blindness?

3D. How can we grow to see more clearly with our spiritual eyesight?