

Discussion Notes
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Mark 8. 22-30
Doug Smith

These few passages may seem unrelated, but they are actually all brilliantly connected. They will show us more about our condition, Jesus' promise to show us who he is, and how that works.

Mark 8. 22-26

- Jesus uses spit to heal the man – not an uncommon practice in the first century as spit was considered to have medicinal qualities. The healing occurs.
- Jesus *touches* the man. The healing is not just about the miracle, but about the care.
- He leads the man away from the crowds, thus sparing him from spectacle.
- There needs to be a “second touch” from Jesus, in order for the man to be fully healed. We should not give up on God and consistently ask for what we need.
- At first the man saw a little, then he saw a lot. He is a walking metaphor this was the disciple's experience also. They had yet to identify Jesus fully. Their sight was not clear – they had limited vision.

Mark 8. 27-30

- In a pagan/unbelieving setting, Jesus pushes his disciples to stretch for the answer.
- The crowds aren't seeing Jesus clearly (prophet, John the Baptist, etc.)
- For the first time Jesus asked them who they think he is.
- Peter's words are pivotal – but they still may not be accurate to Jesus' true mission. What does Peter think a Messiah should be doing? Is Jesus what they expect?
- This is about discovering God's true nature. In the midst of our journey, he doesn't give up on us. We get a second touch.

Three Take-Aways

- We pursue – a journey of progressive discovery. It's ok to learn, and Jesus has patience.
- Who whole Jesus – the importance of embracing who Jesus really is verses who we want him to be.
- The second touch – we are invited into a deeper journey.

Questions to Discuss:

- Do you make God into your image, or are you being made into his?
- How are you committed to the journey in getting to know God's true nature?
- How can you respond to a deeper journey? What does a second touch mean?