

November 17, 2019  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**GRACE ON THE GALILEE**  
**Episode 2: Spitting Contest.**  
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

**Mark 8:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup>He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had **spit** on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" <sup>24</sup>He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." <sup>25</sup>Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup>Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."

**Jesus was becoming popular: Vs. 22** *"They came to Bethsaida"*

- **Jesus seemed to care why people followed.**
  - **Jesus asks what you want.**
    - **John 1:35-38** *<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"*
      - Jesus desires for us to want less and hunger for more.
  - **Jesus rebukes the miracle hunters.**
    - **John 4:46-50** *Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup>"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." <sup>49</sup>The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." <sup>50</sup>"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."*

**Miracles flow from a space of compassion: Vs. 22** *"some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him."*

- **These people cared deeply about a miracle for someone other than themselves.**
  - **Many of Jesus miracles mention Jesus' compassion:**
    - **Matt 20:34** *Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.*

**Jesus takes the man out of the city, but why?**

- **Vs. 23** *He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village.*
  - Here again we see the **deeply personal** nature of the miracles of Jesus and how he was not looking to leverage power into celebrity.
  - This was also a city that Jesus rebuked for their lack of belief. **May we never be a city that Jesus wants to leave.**
    - **Just go home: Vs. 26** *Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."*

**Healing is a process: Vs. 23-26** *When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"<sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."<sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

- Jesus never came to peddle *microwave spirituality*.
- Process often purifies the relationship.

**Who are you bringing to Jesus?**

**Food for the journey:** Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in reflection or in one of our community groups.

1. Why do you think Jesus shunned celebrity?
2. Jesus asked the men following him, "What do you want?" Its a good question for us. What do you want?
3. According to scripture, compassion can be an open road to miracles. Why do you think might be?
4. Pastor Adam mentioned that Jesus is not a microwave salesman selling instant spirituality and that process often purifies relationship.
5. Who do you know who needs a miracle? Are you willing to lead them to Jesus.

**Our Next Invitation Event Is Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. Pray about who you might invite.**