

# Mark 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

## Analysis

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**And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him**—The arrival at Bethsaida (Βηθσαϊδά, 'house of fishing') introduces Mark's unique two-stage healing miracle. The verb *parakalōsin* (παρακαλῶσιν, 'they besought') indicates earnest intercession by friends on the blind man's behalf, demonstrating faith-filled advocacy. This healing forms the structural center of Mark 8, bracketed by discussions of spiritual blindness (8:14-21) and Peter's confession (8:27-30).

Mark's placement is theologically deliberate: just as physical sight comes gradually, so does spiritual perception. The disciples have just failed to understand Jesus's warning about leaven (8:14-21), their eyes spiritually obscured. This miracle becomes a living parable of progressive revelation, anticipating how the disciples' understanding will unfold in stages—from confusion, to partial recognition of Jesus as Messiah, to complete comprehension only after the resurrection.

## Historical Context

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Bethsaida, Philip's hometown (John 1:44), was a fishing village on the Sea of Galilee's northeast shore, recently elevated to city status by Philip the Tetrarch. Jesus had condemned it for unbelief despite mighty works (Matthew 11:21), yet compassionate ministry continued there. First-century healing often involved touch and ritual actions understood within Greco-Roman medical contexts.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Who in your life needs you to bring them to Jesus through persistent, faith-filled intercession?
2. How does this gradual healing challenge modern expectations of instant spiritual transformation?
3. What 'spiritual blindness' in your own life might Jesus be healing in stages rather than instantaneously?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἔρχεται εἰς Βηθσαϊδάν καὶ φέρουσιν αὐτοῦ τυφλὸν  
**And he cometh to Bethsaida And they bring him a blind man**  
G2532 G2064 G1519 G966 G2532 G5342 G846 G5185

καὶ παρακαλοῦσιν αὐτοῦ ἵνα αὐτοῦ ἅψηται  
**And besought him to him touch**  
G2532 G3870 G846 G2443 G846 G680

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 11:21** (Parallel theme): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

**Mark 6:45** (Parallel theme): And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

**Luke 10:13** (Parallel theme): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

**Mark 2:3** (Parallel theme): And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

**Matthew 8:15** (Parallel theme): And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

**John 1:44** (Parallel theme): Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

**John 12:21** (Parallel theme): The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

**Matthew 8:3** (Parallel theme): And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

**Matthew 9:29** (Parallel theme): Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.