

SEEING WHAT GOD SEES: SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS (MK. 8:11-26)
Sept. 22, 2024

TEXT—MK. 8:11-26

Ps. 119:18

MAIN IDEA—Every human is born spiritually blind due to sin. Even the Christian can experience a partial blindness due to deception, but only Christ can give us the sight we need.

MEMORY VERSE—John 8:12

BLINDNESS OF THE PHARISEES (Mk. 8:11-13)—Jesus and His disciples crossed the western side of the Sea of Galilee and arrived at a region called Dalmanutha (Mk.8:10). Upon their arrival they were rudely met by an angry group of Pharisees who came for the sole purpose of arguing with Jesus in the hope of discrediting His ministry.

Mk.7:6-8; Mk. 1:15; Jn. 1:11-13

Mt.12:38-41

THE BLINDNESS OF THE DISCIPLES (Mk.8:14-21)—Leaving the Pharisees behind, the Lord traveled with His disciples to the east side of the Sea of Galilee. Having just encountered the Pharisees, Jesus began teaching the disciples truth about the evil influences of sin using the analogy leaven. Yet the disciples thought Jesus mentioned this because they forgot to take bread with them.

Mt. 16:6

Leaven is often used in the NT as a picture of *influence* and specifically the *evil influence* of sin. Evil, like leaven or yeast, is small and hidden, but it spreads and soon infects the whole (**Gal.5:9**). The Bible uses leaven as a picture of *false doctrine* (**Gal. 5:1-9**), *unjudged sin* in the church (**1 Cor.5**), and *hypocrisy* (**Lk.12:1**).

1) The leaven of the Pharisees was personal hypocrisy and doctrinal error.

Mt. 23:27-28; James 1:22; Rom.5:1

2) The leaven of Sadducees is the false beliefs in materialism and rationalism (i.e this world is all there is).

Rom.14:11-12

3) The leaven of Herod refers to immortality, worldliness, and all types of ungodliness.

1 Jn. 2:15-17; Mt.16:8-12; Mt.6:33-34.

Warren Wiersbe(1929-2019)—God’s people often have a tendency to forget His blessings (Ps.103:1-2). He meets our needs, but then when the next problem arises, we complain or become frightened. As long as we are with Him, we can be sure He will care for us. It would do us all good to pause occasionally and remind ourselves of His goodness and faithfulness.

**What is God saying providentially through this time we’re in? [2 Cor.6:; Rev.22:20].
Are we listening or are we only thinking about *bread*?

THE OPENING OF BLINDED EYES (Mk.8:22-26)—Here we see the remedy for all blindness (whether spiritual or physical), which is the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ. The man was brought to Jesus, yet the LORD took him out of the village of Bethsaida, personally touched his eyes, gradually healed this man, and then directed him not to enter this village as he returned to his home elsewhere.

Mt.11:21-22

Why did Jesus lead the man out of the town before healing him? Why didn’t Jesus heal the man by simply touching him, instead of spitting and using saliva? Why did the healing happen gradually?

Ps.115:3

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, was delivered from his spiritual blindness by grace (**Read it as H.W. John 3:1-21**).