

Life Group Notes

Mark my words!

Chapter 8

1. Following the amazing miracle of feeding the 4000, the Pharisees responded in a startling way (see Mark 8:11). What do you think they were expecting from Jesus? How would you describe their reaction? In which way do people respond similarly today?

2. Read Mark 8:22-26. What do you find strange about this narrative? In which way does it differ from other healing narratives of Jesus in the gospels?

3. Steve suggested that even the tricky passages of scripture can be understood by asking the following three questions:

- ~ What kind of literature am I reading? [question of genre]
- ~ What is happening at that time and in that place? [question of historical context]
- ~ What is the context of the passage? [question of literary context]

Why are these three questions so important? Which of these questions is most relevant in trying to understand the narrative of the blind man's healing?

4. As we "zoom out" and take in the wider context of this unique miracle of Jesus healing the blind man, what clues might we get in our understanding why Jesus took two attempts to heal the man? See Mark 8:17-21 and 8:27-33 especially. Also in a wider context, take a look at 7:18 and 6:52. What is the theme?

5. In which way was the blind man's two-stage healing a "living parable"? In which way did his healing symbolise the disciples' (and especially Peter's) reaction to Jesus?

6. In which way did the disciples' spiritual blindness continue? See Acts 1:6-9. Do you find this surprising?

7. Peter acknowledged who Jesus was, but failed to understand the need for the Cross. In which ways might we commit the same mistake? That is, acknowledge Christ's identity but not comprehend the necessity for self-denial and sacrifice?

Your thoughts are so much higher than mine.

I see so dimly at times

Your ways are so much higher than mine

And yet you care about my life

Teach me to trust you

Teach me to hold to you

Teach me to walk with you, even though sometimes I'm blind

Teach me to run to you,

Teach me to come to you,

Teach me to trust you Lord and your plan for my life

Teach me to trust your ways O Lord (Clive Meredith, 1996)