

The Turning Point

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 8:22-33.

B. The miracle in this story involved a process unlike all the other miracles of Jesus.

II. The process.

A. Jesus did things as the situation demanded, but this situation was quite remarkable.

B. Jesus spits on the eyes of a blind man. The spit becomes a symbol for the Word of God.

C. The need for a two stage healing shows the disciples that they were blind.

1. Jesus continually played down the love of the miraculous.

2. The people did not expect Jesus to be the Messiah.

3. God revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Messiah, and Jesus wanted the disciples to know this.

4. The disciples had come to an understanding of Jesus, but they had not come to a full understanding yet—they needed a second touch.

5. The cross was the second touch the disciples needed.

6. The word of the cross...

a. Is the end of self-sufficiency.

b. Is the death of a person.

c. Involves pain and suffering.

7. The way of the cross leads to resurrection and freedom.

8. We all need a second touch from Jesus to learn who He is and find rest.

Application questions:

1. How does this miracle illustrate the disciples' blindness? What did they fail to see?

2. Why is an understanding cross crucial for understanding Jesus?

3. What does the cross tell us about Him? Explain.
