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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Blind Man at Bethsaida

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MIRACLE TWENTY-FOUR: Healing a Blind Man at Bethsaida (Mk. 8:22-26)

SURVEY

Jesus began this miracle by placing His hands on the man and spitting in his eyes.

The Savior: *"Do you see anything?"*

The sightless: *"I see people; they look like trees walking around."*

Jesus touched the man's eyes, causing him to now see clearly and completely.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is Jesus' only miracle accomplished in two stages.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The spiritual application here is crystal clear and sorely needed today. We need that second touch by Jesus, allowing us to see *"every man clearly"* as God does.
- As can be seen later, Jesus' disciples would often see men as "trees".

1. Despicable trees

"And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village." (Lk. 9:52-56)

2. Bothersome trees

"And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." (Lk. 18:15-17)

3. Competitive trees

"And John answered him, saying, master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him

not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."
(Mk. 9:38-41)

4. Sinful trees

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (Jn. 9:1-3)

5. Unclean trees

"On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." (Acts 10:9-15)

- As can be seen today, Jesus' disciples do often see men as trees. Thus:
 1. As a Christian leader, do I view my staff and associates simply as servant trees whose main task is to help me in building my own personal kingdom?
 2. As a Christian layperson, do I view my family members and friends merely as enabling trees, existing primarily to meet my needs and enhance my goals?