

THE HEALING OF A BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA

Intro. Only in Mk. Bethsaida doubtful tho commentators think there actually was only one (confusion arises from Mk 6:45). It was the so-called Bethsaida Judias in Philip's tetrarchy on the bank of Jordan at top of Sea of Galilee. By this time it was more than a village but the old designation simply was a hangover. 1st blind man in Mk. 2nd in 10:46.
Theme. The ABC's of Salvation. Only we do it in reverse.

I. The C--CONVERSION--DIFFERENT BUT DEFINITE

- A. It involved Solitude, 23. Took him out of the city. Prob to avoid the crowds and opposition as well as stemming mass healings or a run of cures. Sometimes saved in crowd and sometimes alone. In church and out. With friend and without.
- B. It involved Spitting, 23. Ancient held some medicinal value and prob an accommodation. Shows Lord not bound to one means and maybe a lesson to us who insist on never using an invitation or unworthy means. This was unworthy yet Lord used it. Should always seek the highest. Don't seek pattern in someone else's experience. cf 2 Kg 5:1-14 Naaman wanted Elisha to come out. We're guilty of same thing.
- C. It involved Success, 25. Saw clearly. Literally shining from afar; i.e. clearly tho at a distance. No myopia or partial recovery. 2 Cor 5:17. Real conversion can only be a success. No failures.

II. The B--BELIEF--WEAK BUT WELL-PLACED

- A. It was Weak. Vs 22 he had to be brot. Prob more than merely his need to be led bec of Mt 9:27-31. That X accommodated his supersition shows weakness of his faith. Isn't question of quantity or even quality.
- B. It was well-placed. 22 Unto Him. Proved by the successful cure. Question is in whom is faith placed. No sal without faith, but it's a personal matter. bet 2.

III. The A--ASSURANCE--SLOW BUT SURE

- A. The Giver of Assurance, 23,25. He put His hands on him. Come to X directly with the problem, not men. When can't see clearly you need His touch and few people do see spiritual things clearly at once. Vision not clear bec dazzled by new light. Ask Him to save you again if nec.
- B. The Growth of Assurance, 24-25. anablepø in 24 looked up in manner of blind man and saw lit "I see men,, for I pæceive objects like trees walking." He saw but not clearly or fully.
Vs 25diablepø-looked up (actually thru) and saw more this time.
Vs 25 enblepø-saw clearly and distinctly. So with spiritual things. Not suggesting a growth process in conversion but often a growth in our apprehension of it.
- C. The Guarantee of Assurance, 25. Vs 25 diablepø is aor--he saw clearly for first time. enblepø is ~~pres~~ impf--he kept on seeing.

Concl. Review ABC's. Not asking you to tell me. Perhaps best if you don't tell as vs 26. It's not what you say; it's what's going on in your heart.