

AUTHOR

The author is John Mark who accompanied the Apostle Paul on his first missionary journey and who is thought to have also been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Mark was probably written between AD 55 and 65. Mark writes to encourage Roman Christians, who had lived under oppressive Roman rule for a long time and to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

CONTEXT

Jesus continues his ministry, going beyond Galilee. This story is found only in the Gospel of Mark. Many miracles are recorded in Mark and thirteen of them are healing miracles. Mark records more miracles than any other Gospel. This scripture passage describes the only two-stage miracle which Jesus performed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 8:22-26. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Read Isaiah 35:5-6. What does this prophecy say about Jesus?
3. In Mark 8:22-26, why do you think Jesus led the man outside the village?
4. Compared to some of Jesus' other miracles, what is unique about this healing miracle?
5. Why do you think Jesus' healing took place in 2 stages? Is this any less encouraging or miraculous than an immediate cure?

6. Have you ever experienced gradual healing though you prayed for a miracle? Did this challenge your faith or strengthen it?
7. This story encourages us that it's okay to pray to Jesus more than once about a sickness that does not go away quickly. Does this encourage you in your prayer life to be more persistent?
8. Read Mark 8:14-21. What did Jesus ask the disciples in verse 18? What do you think was Jesus' frustration with the disciples?
9. Sight was used as a metaphor for understanding. Compare the first stage of the miracle in Mark 8:22-26 to the disciples' understanding. After the man's sight was completely restored he could see everything clearly.
10. Read Mark 8:27-30. What is the response to Jesus' question in verse 29? Their eyes were open and the disciples could now see clearly.
11. Who might you pray for today that is dealing with chronic pain and recurring sickness?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Be persistent in prayer. "Whatever is worth worrying about is worth praying about."
– Elton Trueblood, Quaker philosopher