

“The Unpredictable Jesus”

Mark 8:22-26

Operation Overlord had been in the planning for over 3 years. The opportunity for the invasion of northern France was limited to only a few days in each month. The moon, the tide, and the wind had to be right for it to be successful. There were three different teams of weather forecasters, with the chief meteorologist being Captain James Stagg of the British Royal Air Force. Going against his colleagues, Captain Stagg convinced General Eisenhower to postpone the invasion from June 5 to June 6, 1944. The weather, which was unpredictable, was the most important factor in the largest invasion in world history. Though the weather was not ideal on June 6, 1944, it was calm enough for the invasion to be successful.

President-Elect Kennedy asked President Eisenhower while on the way to his inauguration why the D-Day invasion was successful. President Eisenhower responded with a smile: “We had better weather men than the Germans!”

Jesus was not predictable. He was compassionate, forgiving, and holy, but He was not predictable. There is a mystery about Jesus because He is God, and God is far beyond our ability to know Him fully and completely. God said: *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts’*” (Isaiah

55:8-9). The Book of Job says: *“Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea”* (Job 11:7-9). In this incident in the Gospel of Mark, we see that Jesus was unpredictable when He healed a blind man. Let’s look at this passage of scripture to see what we can learn from it:

1. Jesus works as He chooses (8:23-25)

“He took the blind man by the hand and brought him out of the village. Spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, ‘Do you see anything?’ He looked up and said, ‘I see people—they look to me like trees walking.’ Again Jesus placed His hands on the man’s eyes, and he saw distinctly. He was cured and could see everything clearly.”

- Jesus was asked by this man’s friends to heal his blindness. Apparently, the man lost his sight through an accident or disease, since he knew what trees looked like. Jesus could have spoken and healed the man. He could have simply touched his eyes, and the man would have been healed. But Jesus is not predictable. He used this unusual method to heal the man in order to teach a lesson. The lesson is that God works in various ways.

- Though his friends believed that Jesus could heal their blind friend, Jesus wanted the blind man to believe that He could heal him. The City of Bethsaida rejected Jesus (Matt. 11:21-24), so Jesus took the man out of the city to perform the miracle. Jesus knew that unbelief would hinder the man's healing. The writer of Hebrews said: *"Now without faith, it is impossible to please God"* (11:6a). Do you want God to do a miracle in your life? You *must* believe that God can do that miracle.
- Look at Jesus' response to this request to heal. *"He took the blind man by the hand..."* (v. 23a), and *"Spitting on his eyes..."* (v. 23b). Under the law, if you touched a diseased person, you were considered unclean. Jesus still touched the man, showing compassion and tenderness. Jesus made His saliva a "salve" for the man's eyes. Again, being compassionate by touching his eyes. Though Jesus healed gradually, the man was healed of his blindness—*"He was cured and could see everything clearly"* (v. 25b). We see that Jesus is unpredictable, because He works how He chooses. Let Jesus work in you however He chooses.

2. Jesus can do the impossible (8:25)

"Again Jesus placed His hands on the man's eyes, and he saw distinctly. He was cured and could see everything clearly."

- You get the feeling that this blind man did not believe that Jesus could heal him. His friends believed that Jesus could heal him—*"They brought a blind man to Him and begged Him to touch him"* (v. 22b). Again, Jesus led the man out of the unbelieving City of Bethsaida. When He put saliva on the man's eyes, as well as touching him, the man should have been healed. But he wasn't or not completely. Jesus healed the man even though He was up against an unbelieving city and a doubting patient. If your prayers are not being answered, check to see if you genuinely believe God can do what you are asking.
- Our God and Savior wants us to trust in Him, no matter what our circumstances. He wants us to turn to Him, and invite Him to bring healing and resolve. Jesus told the disciples: *"What is impossible from a human perspective is possible with God"* (Luke 18:27). If you are struggling in your faith due to your circumstances, pray what the father of a demon-possessed son asked of Jesus: *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"* (Mark 9:24).
- Though Jesus is unpredictable in how He works, He is still the loving and holy Son of God. He can be trusted with your life and your life circumstances. Paul told the believers in Ephesus: *"Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us"* (Ephesians 3:20). Jesus is able to *"do above and*

beyond all that we ask or think” in our lives. During these uncertain times, let us trust in the all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present Son of God. Is Jesus unpredictable? Yes. Is He reliable? Yes. Can He be trusted? Absolutely yes!

What are you struggling with today? What do you need God to do for you? Turn to Him. Seek His help. Seek a miraculous work from Christ. Let Him work in His own way and in His own time.