

# What am I Seeing? What am I Saying?

Echo Church | Week 3 | January 19, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.

Mark 8:22-33 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.

<sup>23</sup> So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.

<sup>24</sup> And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."

<sup>25</sup> Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

<sup>26</sup> Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

<sup>27</sup> Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?"

<sup>28</sup> So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some *say*, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

<sup>30</sup> Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.

<sup>31</sup> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

<sup>33</sup> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

## Introduction

Have you ever looked at something but didn't fully understand what you were seeing? Or said something before realizing it didn't align with the truth? Life can be blurry sometimes, both in what we see and what we say.

A moment like this happens in Mark 8. Jesus is revealing critical truths, but His disciples, like us, are working through blurry vision and misguided words.

This passage challenges us to ask two key questions in our walk with God:

- What am I *seeing*?
- What am I *saying*?

For us to be aligned with God's purpose, these two must intersect with His truth.

## Context Insight

Mark lays down a pivotal shift here—Jesus transitions His disciples from just observing His miracles to understanding His mission. The healing of the blind man mirrors their spiritual sight being restored in stages. Peter's confession shows us what happens when partial clarity is paired with divine revelation.

Now, let's work through three key points to ensure our vision stays sharp and our words align with God.

## Key Point 1: A Blurry Vision Isn't the End of the Story

*"And he looked up and said, 'I see men like trees, walking.'" (Mark 8:24)*

- Jesus used a process to heal this man's blindness. The first touch left him seeing people as "trees walking." Why take the process approach? Wasn't Jesus capable of instant healing?
- The picture here reflects our spiritual growth. Sometimes God has to work through our blurry vision step by step.
- How often do we misinterpret what we see? *Think about how we jump to conclusions or misread situations in our relationships or culture.*

### Application:

If what you see feels unclear right now, trust that God is still working on your vision. Don't settle for partial sight—stay in His presence for the complete miracle. Clarity may take time, but it always comes when we stay connected to Him.

**Challenge:**

Ask yourself, “Is my blurry vision creating blurry faith? Am I trusting the process?” God starts His work before you fully see what He’s doing.

**Key Point 2: Your Confession Shapes Your Direction**

*“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the Christ.’” (Mark 8:29)*

- Peter’s bold confession is a defining moment. Jesus wasn’t looking for them to repeat what others were saying (v. 27-28). He pressed them for a personal revelation. It wasn’t about what the crowd thought—it was about Peter knowing the truth.
- What you declare with your mouth reveals whose voice has shaped your thinking. What are you confessing over your life, family, and future? Are your words aligning with the world’s opinions or God’s identity?

**Application:**

Words have creative power. When you speak truth, you’re aligning yourself with the work of God. But when you echo fear, doubt, or negativity, you give those things room to grow.

The question stops being “Who do they say God is?” but “Who do you declare Him to be in your life?” Your confession directly impacts your next steps.

**Challenge:**

Reflect on your words this week. Are you speaking life or doubt? Write down declarations of faith that align with who God is.

**Key Point 3: Stop Rebuking the Purpose in Front of You**

*“But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’” (Mark 8:33)*

- One moment Peter is confidently saying, “You are the Christ,” and the next, he’s rebuking the very purpose Jesus came for—His death on the cross. Why? Because Peter’s perspective wasn’t fully aligned with God’s plan.
- How often do we reject the hard parts of God’s process because they don’t fit our understanding? When life gets painful, it’s easy to resist and think, “This can’t be God’s will.” But sometimes, God’s purpose comes wrapped in struggle and sacrifice.

**Application:**

Clinging to human understanding limits your ability to see God's bigger picture. Choosing God's perspective means surrendering what makes sense to you and trusting what He has already ordained.

Don't rebuke what God is trying to release in your life—even if it looks difficult or doesn't match your expectations.

**Challenge:**

Ask God to reveal His perspective when things don't make sense. Be mindful of how quickly you resist moments that feel like struggle—they might be preparing you for something foundational.

**Closing Thoughts**

- This passage shows us a progression from blurry vision to bold confession to clarity of purpose.
- Our prayer today is that God sharpens our sight to see His truth and aligns our words to speak His plans.

**Key Questions to Ponder This Week:**

1. Am I trusting God to clear up blurry situations in my life, or am I settling for partial perspective?
2. Do my words reflect God's truth, or am I echoing the noise around me?
3. Am I willing to submit to God's purpose, even when it doesn't align with my expectations?

*What you see and what you say are inseparably linked to who you believe God to be. Make sure your eyes and your mouth are both tuned to His reality.*

**Prayer:** "Lord, open my eyes to see Your truth clearly and guide my words to echo Your promises. Help me trust Your process, confess Your greatness, and submit to Your purpose. Amen."