

ECHO CHURCH

No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

What's in Front of You?

A 6-Day Devotional Companion

Mark 8:22–26 NKJV

June 22–27, 2026

When People Become Bigger Than Presence

This devotional is built to carry you from Sunday's message into the week. The man in Mark 8 was led, touched, made honest, touched again, lifted, and redirected. Over these six days, we will walk that same journey, learning to look up until the One who touched us is bigger than everything that ever blocked our view.

Pastor Rich Saunders Jr.

Before You Begin

This is a six-day journey through one question: what is in front of you? Not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, and interpretively. Sunday's message reminded us that God can have His hand on our lives while the first thing we focus on is still people. This week is about correcting that focus.

How to Use This Devotional

Set aside ten to fifteen minutes each day. Find a quiet place where you can read slowly and pray honestly. Each day follows the same simple rhythm so you can settle into it without thinking about the format and give your full attention to God.

Begin with the Focus line. It names the one idea for the day. Then read the Scripture slowly, more than once if you can. Let the reading walk you through it. Sit with the callout statement before you rush past it. Answer the three reflection questions honestly, even when the honest answer is uncomfortable. Pray the written prayer, then keep praying in your own words. End by speaking the Declaration out loud. Saying it matters.

A Word for the Week

Do not read this to finish it. Read it to be restored. Clarity in Mark 8 did not come all at once. It came in stages, through a patient Savior who was willing to touch the man again. Give God room to touch your focus again this week. He is not in a hurry, and neither should you be.

The One who touched you is still in front of you. And when you see Him clearly, you will see everything else correctly.

Day 1 Monday, June 22

Focus: *People can bring you, but they cannot be your focus.*

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.

Mark 8:22 NKJV

The man does not bring himself. Other people bring him to Jesus, and they beg Jesus to touch him. At the beginning of the story he has no recorded voice and no recorded vision. He does not speak. He does not ask. He does not explain. Somebody else carries him into the moment.

Thank God for the people He uses to bring you. The friend who invited you to church. The mother who prayed when you were too far gone to pray for yourself. The person who saw something in you that you could not see. God will sometimes use the faith of somebody else to bring you into a moment you did not have language for yet. Some of us are standing in answered prayers we did not even know how to pray.

But here is the line you must not cross. People brought him, but Jesus led him. People got him to the encounter, but Jesus took him into the process. There are people assigned to bring you to Jesus, but they are not assigned to be Jesus.

They can bring you, but they cannot heal you. They can beg for you, but they cannot restore you. They can care about you, but they cannot become the center of your sight. When you make the people who brought you bigger than the God who can heal you, you put your hope in a hand that was never strong enough to carry it.

Be grateful today. Honor the people God used. Then look past them to the One they were pointing you toward. Gratitude keeps people in their place. Worship keeps God in His.

Be grateful for the people who brought you, but do not make them bigger than the God who touched you.

Reflection Questions

1. Who did God use to bring you to where you are spiritually, and have you thanked Him for them?
2. Is there a person you have unknowingly made the center of your sight instead of God?
3. What would change if you honored that person but looked past them to Jesus?

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for every person You used to bring me to You. Help me honor them without worshiping them. You are the One who heals. Be the center of my sight today.*

Declaration: *I am grateful for who brought me, but my focus belongs to the God who touched me.*

Day 2 Tuesday, June 23

Focus: *No vision, no voice, but still valuable.*

They brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand...

Mark 8:22–23 NKJV

Before this man ever speaks in the text, Jesus touches him. His silence did not disqualify him. He had no recorded request, but he still received divine attention. He had no visible direction, but he still received divine leadership. He had no voice in the room, but heaven still saw his need.

We assume God only moves for the people who know how to articulate everything, who can pray with the right words and explain exactly what is wrong. But there are seasons when you do not even know how to explain what is broken. You know you are not whole. You know something is off. You know life feels blurry. You know you need help. But you do not have the language yet.

The grace of this text is that Jesus does not wait for you to have perfect language before He gives you personal leadership. He can lead you even when you cannot describe where you are. Your inability to explain your pain has never been a barrier to His willingness to touch it.

Notice too that the man does not speak until after Jesus removes him from his last environment. In Bethsaida, he was the blind man. In the hands of Jesus, he became a man in process. The crowd knew his condition. Jesus knew his future. There are environments where your condition has a name, but your future does not have room.

If you have been silent because you feel like you have nothing impressive to bring, hear this. Heaven still sees your need. You do not have to perform to be reached. You only have to be willing to be taken by the hand.

He is not trying to fix you in the place of your hurt. He is trying to heal you in a place you have never seen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in your life do you feel something is wrong but you cannot find the words for it?
2. Have you stayed silent with God because you felt you had nothing worthy to bring?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus touched the man before he ever spoke?

Prayer: *Lord, I do not always have the words. Thank You that my silence does not disqualify me. Take me by the hand even when I cannot explain where I am, and lead me somewhere new.*

Declaration: *I do not have to explain my pain perfectly for God to touch it personally.*

Day 3 Wednesday, June 24

Focus: *Trusting the hand before you see the plan.*

So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town...

Mark 8:23 NKJV

How does a blind man trust the hand of someone he cannot see? The text does not say the man knew Jesus personally or had any prior relationship with Him. It does not say Jesus introduced Himself and explained the whole plan. All we know is that the man was blind, Jesus took him by the hand, and the man followed.

That means before he received sight, he had to practice trust. Before he saw clearly, he had to walk obediently. Before Jesus opened his eyes, the man had to surrender his steps. Faith is not always having full vision. Sometimes faith is trusting the hand that is leading you when your eyes have not caught up yet.

Scripture says to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. This man could not lean on his sight because he had none. He could not lean on his understanding because Jesus had not explained everything. He could not lean on familiarity because Jesus was leading him away from town. All he had was the hand. Sometimes God removes everything you normally lean on so you can learn to trust Him with all your heart.

Think about how easily we trust what we do not control. We get into a rideshare with a stranger, in a car we do not own, following a route we are not steering, and we relax in the back seat because the driver had a good rating. We trust the app. We trust the process. But when it comes to God, we want control, confirmation, explanation, and evidence before we obey.

If you can trust an imperfect person to take you across town, surely you can trust the perfect God to lead you into purpose. He does not need you to see the whole route for Him to be leading you in the right direction. Hold the hand. The plan will come.

God does not need you to see the whole route for Him to be leading you in the right direction.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is God asking you to follow His hand before He shows you the plan?
2. What are you leaning on right now that God may be trying to remove?
3. Why is it easier to trust strangers and systems than to trust God?

Prayer: *Lord, I want to see the whole route before I move, but You are asking me to trust the hand. I let go of my need to understand everything. Lead me, and I will follow.*

Declaration: *I will trust the hand that is leading me even when I cannot see the plan.*

Day 4 Thursday, June 25

Focus: *If God is before us, why are men still bigger than Him?*

And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."

Mark 8:24 NKJV

Jesus led him. Jesus touched him. Jesus had His hands on him. Jesus was standing right in front of him. But when the man begins to see, the first thing he mentions is men. Not the One who led him out. Not the hand that healed him. Men.

That sounds like us. God leads us out. God protects us. God covers us. God moves us away from what was killing our focus. But when we start talking, we still talk about people first. People who hurt us. People who left us. People who misunderstood us. People who did not support us. People who did not clap. People who did not come. Sometimes the first thing you see reveals the last thing you were delivered from.

Romans says if God is for us, who can be against us. For this week, hear it another way. If God is before us, why are men still bigger than Him? If God is standing in front of me, why is my fear louder? Why is my offense clearer? Why is my disappointment larger? Why is my need for approval stronger?

The man says he sees men like trees. Trees are tall. Trees are rooted. Trees can block your view. That is what people become when your vision is blurred. Their opinions look taller than they are. Their rejection looks stronger than it is. Their absence looks more permanent than it is. The presence of God does not always remove the opposition, but it changes the size of it. No one against you is greater than the God who is for you.

The goal is not to stop seeing people. It is to see them correctly. When you do not see God clearly, you will either make people too big or too small. You will idolize them or demonize them. You will chase their approval or live trapped by their rejection. Clear sight of God is the only thing that puts people back in proportion.

When God is before you, what is against you loses the right to define you.

Reflection Questions

1. Who or what is the first thing you mention when you talk about your life right now?
2. Which person or opinion has grown taller in your vision than it deserves to be?
3. How would seeing God clearly change the way you see that person?

Prayer: *Lord, forgive me for letting people grow bigger than Your presence. You are standing in front of me. Cut the trees down to size and let me see You first, so I can see everyone else correctly.*

Declaration: *No one against me is greater than the God who is for me.*

Day 5 Friday, June 26

Focus: *Jesus does not just fix sight; He corrects focus.*

Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

Mark 8:25 NKJV

Jesus touches him a second time. This does not mean Jesus failed the first time. It reveals that Jesus is patient enough to finish what He started. And notice the detail. The text says Jesus made him look up. The issue was not just his sight. It was his focus.

This is the only recorded healing in Mark that happens in stages, and Mark places it right before Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ. That is not an accident. The disciples are also seeing in stages. They see something about Jesus, but they do not yet see Him fully. Partial sight is still a process God is willing to complete.

There are seasons where God has to touch you again, not because His power was weak, but because your focus is still divided. He does not just restore vision. He redirects attention. He lifts the head. If you have been waiting on a brand new sign, you may not need more evidence. You may need a lifted perspective.

Look up from the offense. Look up from the comparison. Look up from the disappointment. Look up from the people who misunderstood you. Look up from the pressure to prove yourself. Look up from the thing that keeps stealing your attention. Clarity comes when your focus is lifted, not just when your circumstances change.

If you feel like you are only seeing in part, do not panic and do not quit. Let Him touch you again. The second touch is not a sign of failure. It is a sign that He refuses to leave you at men like trees when He intends for you to see clearly.

Clarity comes when your focus is lifted.

Reflection Questions

1. Where are you still seeing only in part and tempted to give up on the process?
2. What is the one thing your eyes keep dropping down to instead of looking up?
3. Will you let Jesus touch that area again, even though He touched it once already?

Prayer: *Lord, touch me again. Not because You failed, but because I am ready to see clearly. Lift my eyes off what keeps stealing my attention and fix my focus on You.*

Declaration: *I will look up, and I will let God touch my focus again until I see clearly.*

Day 6 Saturday, June 27

Focus: *Do not go back to what made you blind.*

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

Mark 8:26 NKJV

Jesus sends the man home, but He tells him not to go back into the town. This is not just a travel instruction. It is a protection instruction. Jesus is saying, do not return to the environment I just brought you out of.

Bethsaida was exposed to miracles but resistant in response. Jesus had already done works in that region, yet the city stayed spiritually dull. Some places are familiar but not healthy for your restored vision. Some environments will celebrate your blindness because it keeps you dependent. Some circles tolerate the old you better than they can handle the healed you. Some towns know how to manage your dysfunction but have no idea how to honor your deliverance.

Restored vision requires protected direction. This is where many people lose their healing. They receive clarity on Sunday and then return to the same conversations, the same mindsets, the same circles, and the same habits that distorted their view in the first place. The miracle was real, but the path was unchanged, so the blurriness crept back in.

Jesus is not being harsh when He redirects the man. He is being protective. He is guarding the very thing He just gave. What God restores, He also defends, and sometimes the way He defends it is by leading you away from what you used to call home.

As you head into Sunday, take inventory. What environments trained your blindness? What conversations distort your vision? You do not have to be bitter about them. You just cannot move back in. Honor the healing by protecting the path.

When God restores your sight, do not return to what trained your blindness.

Reflection Questions

1. What environment or circle trained your blindness in a past season?
2. Are you tempted to return to something familiar that is not healthy for your restored vision?
3. What is one specific way you can protect the clarity God has given you this week?

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for restoring my sight. Now help me protect it. Give me the courage not to move back into what made me blind. Guard the path as You guarded the vision.*

Declaration: *The miracle is not complete if my eyes are open but my path is unchanged, so I will not go back.*
