



MARK 8:22-26

How does the kingdom come?

Mark 8

²² And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. ²³ And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” ²⁴ And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” ²⁵ Then Jesus^[c] laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

Karl Barth

◦ The miracles of Jesus are the cosmic actualizations of His kerygma, and are performed in this context to summon men to faith. They are not independent, but render this twofold service to faith and the call to faith. There is an indissoluble connexion of proclamation, miracle and faith. The gospel miracle cannot be isolated from this service. None of the miracles takes place, or is recounted, or claims significance, in and for itself. **Their significance is only as actualizations of His Word, as calls to repentance and faith.**



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and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” 24 And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.”

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25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

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27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” **28** And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” **29** And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” **30** And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

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Mark 8

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

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34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. **36** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? **37** For what can a man give in return for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

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3. "Men like trees" and a Kingdom given to the humble.

Daniel 4:17

(see also vs. 25, 27, 32)

...that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest (or most humble) of men.

What is this story about?

1. Passivity and the challenge of following Jesus
2. Two stages of healing and the stubborn blindness.
3. "Men like trees" and a Kingdom given to the humble.
4. Outside the village, spit in the face and the embrace of lowliness.

Numbers 12:3

**...Moses was very meek,
more than all people who
were on the face of the
earth.**



MARK 8:22-26

The Kingdom comes in humble service,
not in human power or domination.