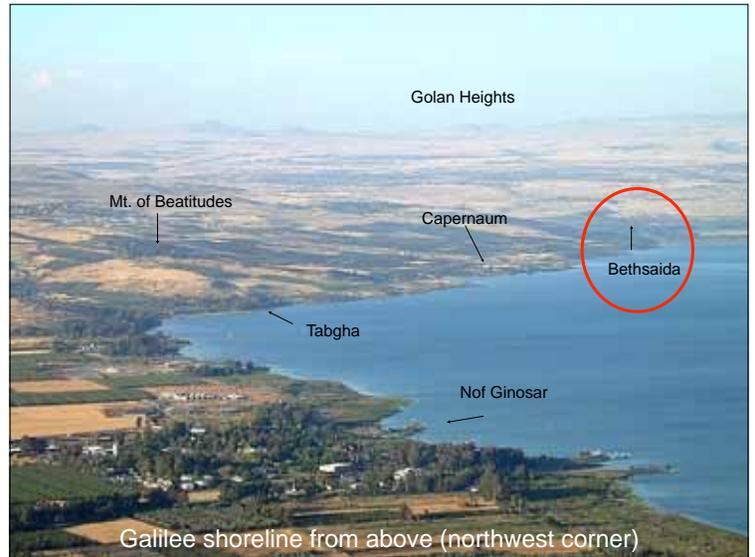
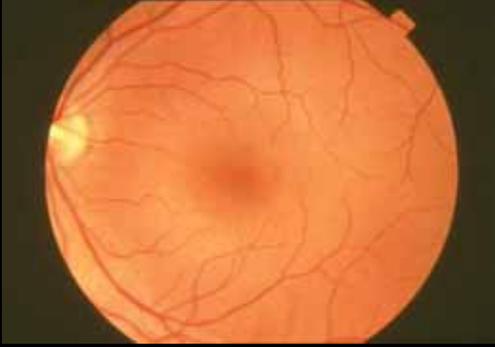


Gradually
Restored Sight

Mark 8:22-26



The Retina



The Flow of the Story

- I. The Simple Circumstances of the Miracle (22a)





Bethsaida aerial from east



Bethsaida excavations



"House of the fisherman" at Bethsaida

Bethsaida

- Means "house of the fisherman" or "house of the hunter."
- Three of the apostles from this community.
 - John 1:44 - Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.
 - John 12:21 - these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and *began* to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."





The Flow of the Story

- I. The Simple Circumstances of the Miracle (22a)
- II. The Desperate Faith of the Blind Man & His Friends (22b)



Jesus' Compassion for the Blind

- Matt. 9:27; 11:5 (III Luke 7:21-22) Matt. 12:22; 15:30; 20:30-34 (IIIMark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43); 21:14
 - E.g., Matt. 15:30 - And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them *those who were* lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them.
 - E.g., Matt. 21:14 - And *the* blind and *the* lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.
 - E.g., Luke 7:21 - At that very time He cured many *people* of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many *who were* blind.



Blind in the 1st Century

- The OT law required that the blind not be taken advantage of.
 - Lev. 19:14 - 'You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.
 - Deut. 27:18 - 'Cursed is he who misleads a blind *person* on the road.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'
- Most were reduced to a life of begging.
 - Cf. Mark 10:46 – Bartimaeus is called "a blind beggar."



The Flow of the Story

- I. The Simple Circumstances of the Miracle (22a)
- II. The Desperate Faith of the Blind Man & His Friends (22b)
- III. The First Stage of Healing (23-24)
 - Cf. 1:31, 34, 41-42; 2:11-12; 3:5, 10; 5:29, 41-42; 6:56; 7:35
- IV. The Second Stage of Healing (25)
- V. The Command for Secrecy (26)
- VI. Jesus' Lessons for All His Disciples



The Dark Side of Blindness

- Several OT texts the rabbis had misunderstood and misinterpreted.
 - Ex. 4:11 - The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"
 - Deut. 28:28 - "The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart;
 - 2 Kings 6:18 - When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.
- The rabbis concluded that all blindness was a divine judgment for sin.



VI. Jesus' Lessons for All His Disciples

- A. Only Christ can heal spiritual blindness.
- B. Spiritual blindness is cured in a moment.
- C. Perfectly clear spiritual vision and insight happens gradually.