

You're the Messiah

Mark 8:22 – 9:1

by Don Falkos

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In Bethsaida a blind man was brought to Jesus. He spit on the man's eyes, put his hands on him and asked, "Do you see anything?"

"I see people. They look like trees walking around."

Jesus put his hands over the man's eyes and his sight was restored. Jesus sent him home.

On the way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who are people saying I am?"

They replied, "John the Baptist; Elijah; one of the prophets."

"And who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You're the Messiah."

Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them something new. He would suffer, be rejected and killed, and after three days rise again.

Peter believed the Messiah was going to raise an army, gloriously defeat the enemies of the Jews, and establish his kingdom. He drew Jesus aside and took him to task for what he had said. But Jesus turned away from Peter and said, "Get out of my way, Satan. You are thinking human thoughts rather than looking from God's perspective."

To the crowd Jesus said, "Put aside your selfish ambition. Give up your life for the sake of the good news, and you will find true life. What good would it do to get everything you ever wanted but lose your soul in the process? If you're ashamed to be associated with the Son of Man and with what he teaches, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in his glory. I tell you plainly, there are people standing here right now who will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power."