

LORD, TOUCH MY EYES AGAIN

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In Mark 8:22-26 is recorded a most curious miracle of Jesus. It took two tries to bring complete healing to a blind man. There were occasions, such as recorded in Matt. 14:36, when all who simply touched the hem of His garment were made perfectly whole. Why, then, did Jesus' first attempt fail? Was this a more difficult case than others who were healed from their blindness? Was this a greater challenge than healing one afflicted with leprosy?



I do not know why Jesus had to touch the man's eyes a second time before he saw clearly. Assuredly, the miracle was not too difficult for Jesus. No challenge was beyond His ability to cope. Yet He chose to do this miracle in stages. There are, however, some lessons for those involved in Adventist education. First, as teachers, we must remember our work is not completed instantaneously. We must persist and persevere, trusting the Holy Spirit to make our efforts fruitful, as we deal tenderly time after time with our students. There are stages—steps in their development—and we must continue to touch them in love and patience before they may see clearly God's will and plan for their lives.

A second lesson is— spiritual truth is not always clearly seen at first. For young people, in particular, it may take time before they see clearly and grasp the messages of the Bible. The work of sanctification is on-going; in fact, it is the work of a lifetime. Teachers must be willing to continue touching the lives of their students, even if immediate results are not achieved, and allow the Holy Spirit to convict.

Thirdly, we don't know anything about the blind man. Maybe he was an impatient man and the second touch was to teach him a lesson of not giving up. Students sometimes feel that some things are impossible. They feel they just can't do it and give up. We must be there to touch them again and encourage them to persevere.

The most important message I believe is for the teacher. There are times when we need Jesus to touch our eyes again so that we can see the students as Jesus sees them. Young people today face a world where situations confront them, temptations are ever before them and family issues require teachers who see clearly and understand each one's need of love, compassion and patience. Our prayer must be, "Lord, touch me again so that I may see clearly what You see in the life of each of my students. Guide me as I do my part in meeting that need."

Rules and regulations are necessary for the smooth operation of any school, however, students must always come before policy. This can be a very difficult procedure to follow. Years ago my wife Gem was teaching piano at Kingsway College. One rule in the Music Department was that no other student should be in a practice room when a student was practicing. During a spare, Gem heard one of her students practicing and the student

was not accurate in her playing. Gem decided, since she had a spare, to go to the room and help the student. Upon entering the room she discovered another student was present. Gem knew the rule, but felt impressed to wait and address the situation at her lesson, rather than confront the issue immediately. At the lesson later that week, Gem learned that the student knew the rule, but the girl with her was going through a very difficult time. She had just learned her parents were divorcing and she needed the companionship and support of her friend. How glad Gem was that the Holy Spirit guided her actions that day. You see, the breaking of a school rule may be totally different than we perceive at first sight. We need a second touch in order to respond in the best way when dealing with each student.

May God bless us with eyes that see in dealing with, and in meeting the needs of, each student.