

## WHAT'S NEXT? – Take the Next Step (Ephesians 1:1-18)

January 5, 2020

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Have you ever felt like something's missing? Are you longing for a clearer sense of purpose in your life? You were created for significance, not just survival. Today we will dig into Scripture and recognize where in our lives we've become spiritually passive and may not be using our gifts to their full potential. We will learn to recognize we are made for significance, and that God gives each of us the vision to pursue the purpose He has us. Together, let's figure out What's Next!

*The righteous **will flourish** like a palm tree, they **will grow** like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they **will flourish** in the courts of our God. – Psalm 92:12-13*

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that** you may **know him** better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may **be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which **he has called you**, the riches of **his glorious inheritance** in his holy people ... – Ephesians 1:17-18*

### Four Steps to Flourish ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven ... Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never **knew you**.’ ...” – Matthew 7:21, 23*

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

*Therefore confess your sins **to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be **healed**. – James 5:16*

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

*We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given to each of us. – Romans 12:6*

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

*“This is to my **Father’s glory**, that you **bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” – John 15:8*

*“I have told you this so that my **joy may be in you** ...” – John 15:11*

### Questions for individual or group reflection:

Have you ever tried to keep a plant alive? What steps did you take, and how did it go?

Think about a time when you felt stuck in a rut. What made you feel that way?

Read Psalm 92:13. In order to flourish, people need to be in the right environment. What things in your environment are helping you grow, and what things might need to change?

The four steps God has for us to flourish are: know God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference. Of those four steps, which one do you need to pursue?

It's almost impossible to grow when you don't have the right people around you. How can you start relying on others more? How can you start helping others grow?

What is a next step you might need to take? What makes you choose that one?



**Pray:** Father, thank You for never leaving us stuck in a rut. Thank You for encouraging us to continue moving and growing. Show us the next steps all of us can take and help us encourage others to take their next steps as well. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Do:

- It's time for you to get moving! Consider the four steps God wants all of us to take and commit to pursuing one of those steps this week.
- If you're in need of support, give the people around you a chance to help you.
- If you know others in need of support, be there for them, and think of specific ways you can show them your support this week.

**Memory Verse:** “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” – John 15:8

*This message uses materials provided by Pastor Chris Hodges and open.life.church.*



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Dream a little bigger.

Dream Again





DOWN TO BE  
AIRBORNE

WE'RE DIFFERENT  
**Glow Zone**  
AFTER DARK

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# WHAT'S NEXT?

Dream a little bigger.

Take the Next Step



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Dream a little bigger.

Dream Again





Where there is *no vision*, the people perish

**PROVERBS 29:19, KJV**





Where there is *no revelation*,  
people cast off restraint

**PROVERBS 29:19, NIV**







**God created  
you for  
significance,  
not just  
survival.**





# Bucket List

1.

2.

3.



**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

**FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**



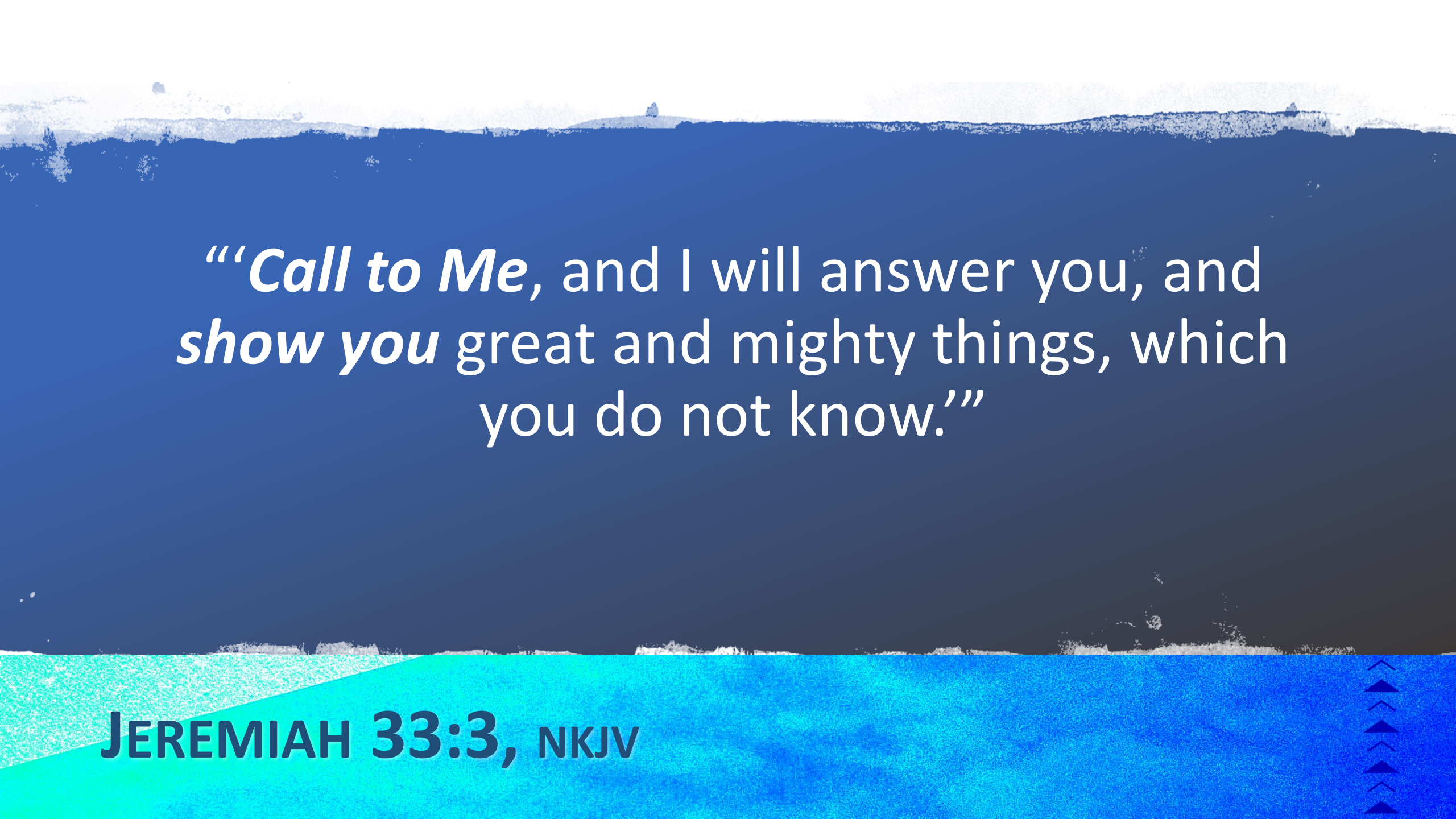


**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

## **FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**

1. No dream.





*“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and  
show you great and mighty things, which  
you do not know.”*

**JEREMIAH 33:3, NKJV**



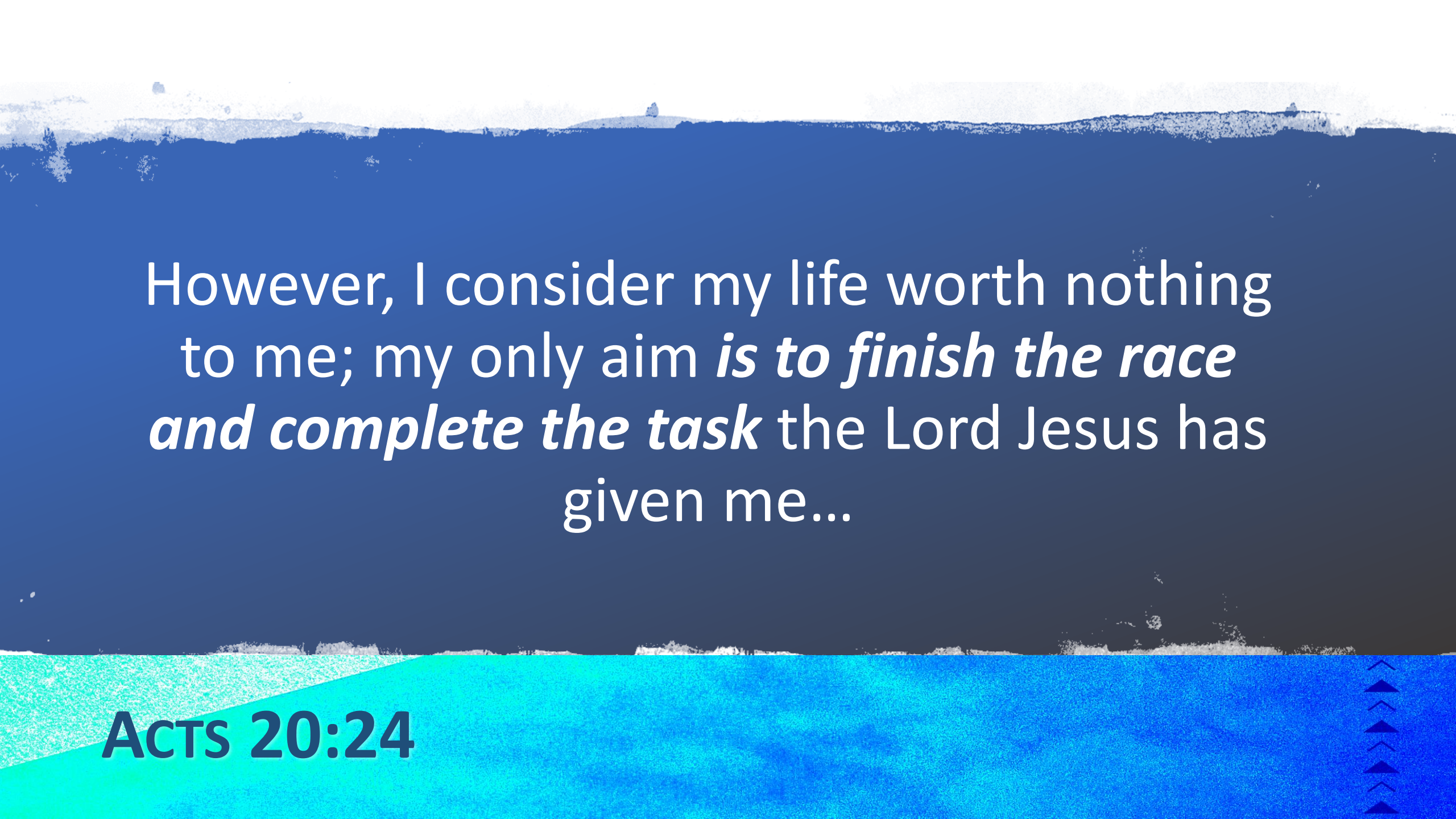


**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

## **FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**

1. No dream.
2. A wrong dream.





However, I consider my life worth nothing  
to me; my only aim *is to finish the race  
and complete the task* the Lord Jesus has  
given me...

**ACTS 20:24**





**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

## **FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**

1. No dream.
2. A wrong dream.
3. A stale dream.





... I remind you to *fan into flame* the  
gift of God ...

**2 TIMOTHY 1:6**





**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

## **FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**

1. No dream.
2. A wrong dream.
3. A stale dream.
4. A vague dream.



“... *Write* the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.”

HABAKKUK 2:2, NKJV





“... *Write* the vision and make it plain on tablets, *that he may run* who reads it.”

HABAKKUK 2:2, NKJV





**WHAT'S  
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## **FIVE TYPES OF PEOPLE**

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5. A God dream.



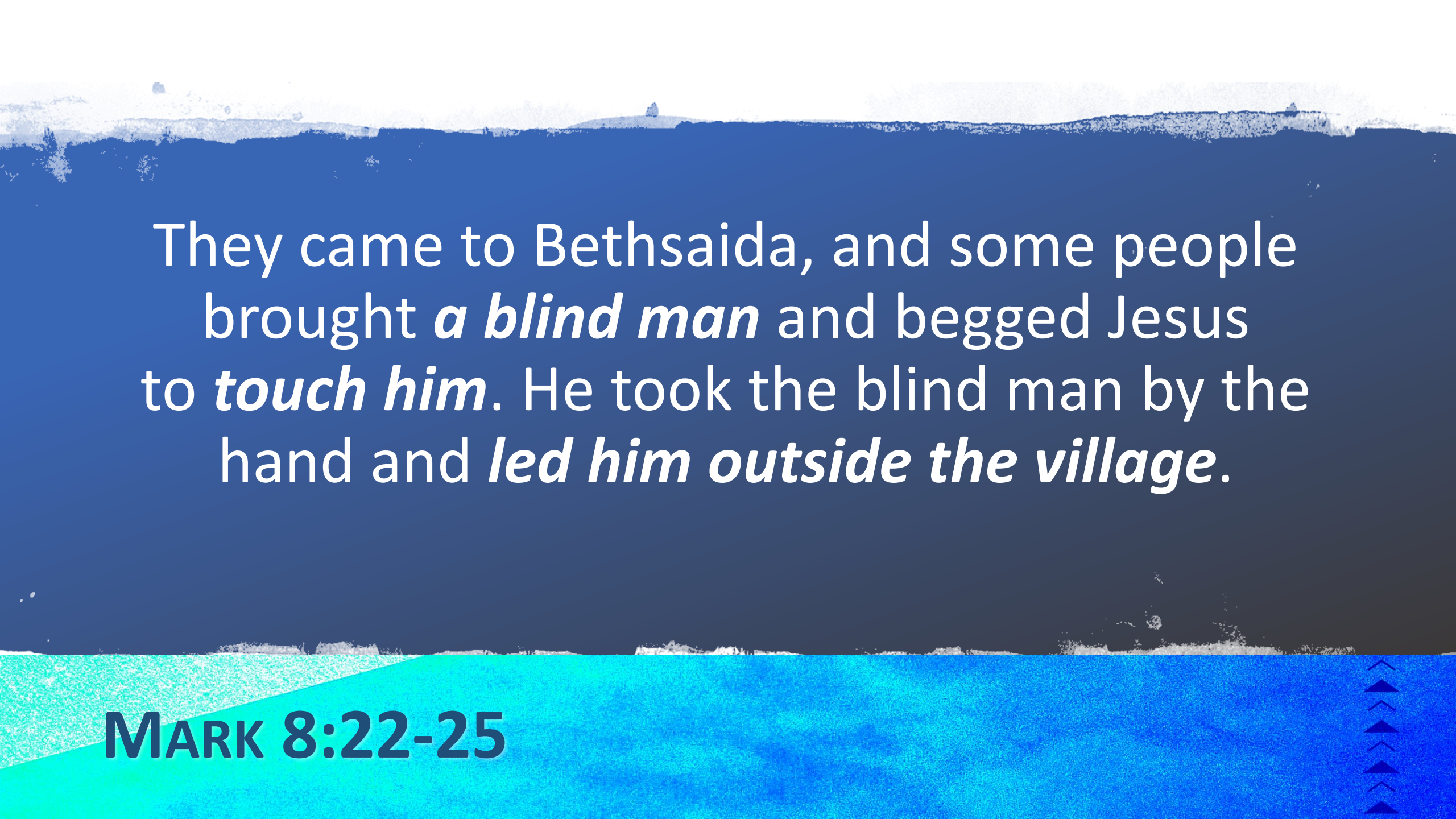
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1. God honoring
2. Faith building
3. Heaven minded
4. Seems impossible





They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought *a blind man* and begged Jesus to *touch him*. He took the blind man by the hand and *led him outside the village*.

**MARK 8:22-25**





When he had *spit on the man's eyes* and *put his hands on him*, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." *Once more* Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. ... and he *saw everything clearly*...

**MARK 8:22-25**





