

The man gets brought IN

Despite testimonies from witnesses and the man's parents, the Pharisees question the man again, wanting to discredit Jesus. They call Jesus a 'sinner,' not because he sinned against God, but he broke their man-made, legalistic rules about the Sabbath. Legalism happens when made-made traditions are elevated to the same value as God's standards. *Additions to God's laws are subtractions to righteousness.* The Pharisees erroneously believed the man was born blind because of sin, but the fact he gained his sight should have at least shown them forgiveness and grace *was* possible. After the man realizes they don't care about the miracle but only desire to condemn Jesus, he sarcastically accuses them of wanting to become Jesus' disciples because they are so intent on learning about him. *Obsession with someone's demise usually means you are in the wrong!*

The man gets kicked OUT

As a Jew, to be excommunicated from the synagogue or Temple was very serious as it was the center of Jewish learning and culture and was essential to your identity. While his parents caved to pressure, he fearlessly stood up for God. *Whatever you fear the greatest controls your life the most* (Prov. 9:10; 29:25; Heb. 13:6; Matt. 10:28)! Hearing he won't denounce Christ, they kick him out of the Temple and becomes a social and ethnic orphan. This is the first instance of someone becoming a 'social martyr' for following Christ. This still happens today when people become followers of Jesus and lose their friends, families, jobs, and sometimes their lives (Matt. 10:32-39; John 16:2). *True discipleship costs disciples truly.*

The man gets lifted UP

Hearing what happened, Jesus found him wandering around Jerusalem. When Jesus reveals himself as the Son of Man, the man believes and worships him (Dan. 7:13, 14). He went from eyes in darkness to eyes with light; from a heart in darkness to one full of light, transformed by Jesus (John 8:12). *It's better to be physically blind than spiritually blind!* The religious leaders claimed to see, but proved their 'sight' was darkness by continuing to hate Jesus. Their spiritual vision was really 'blind-sightedness' (Luke 11:34-36). *Jesus brings light, life, and love to hearts with eyes to see!*