

- A long Gospel but short miracle. John is more interested in the effect that God's action has. So, should we.
- The effect is two distinct journeys: The Pharisees and the man born blind.
 1. The Pharisees: While the blind man approaches the light they plunge into the darkness. Trapped in their arrogance, pride, and smug sense of virtue, their hardened hearts, they are not open to Jesus so do all they can to deny the evidence: (5 things)
 - They question the identity of the cured man
 - They don't accept that God would work a miracle on the Sabbath day of rest
 - They deny that Jesus could be a man from God
 - They cast doubt whether the man had indeed been born blind
 - Their hardness of heart and their shunning of the truth and the life becomes aggressive and they expel the healed man from the temple
 2. The man born blind: After the miracle, he undertakes, with Jesus' help, a journey in stages into the fullness of truth and light. (4 stages)
 - Immediately after the miracle, all he knows is the name of the one who gave him his sight: Jesus
 - After questioning from others and further reflection he considers Jesus must be a prophet
 - Then, after further reflection, a man close to God
 - Finally, after being rejected and ejected by everyone else, and encountering Jesus again, Jesus "opens his eyes" a second time and he realises that Jesus is Lord and worships him.
- If we would have the eyes to see it, we can see God's good action in and around us every day. Like the Pharisees we too can let pride, fear, hardness of heart, despondency, or an inflated sense of our own virtue blind us to God's goodness, truth and life. Or, like the man born blind we can be humble and open to God's action and prompting in our life and thus grow in the light of faith.