

TEACHING HINTS

The lesson is but a fragment. A glimpse should be taken of the whole story. Its climax is in v. 38.

Let these eight striking situations be clear in the mind of the teacher and let them be presented as clearly to the class. A blackboard or a slate or writing pad is invaluable in such lessons as this.

1. *The blind man and the reason for his blindness* (vs. 1-5). The foolish questioning of the disciples and the wise and gracious answer of their Master afford an instructive contrast.

2. *The opening of the blind eyes* (vs. 6, 7). Note the readiness, the tenderness and the tact (literally touch) of Jesus in dealing with this case. Note also His sanctification of common methods and the encouragement given thereby to the man's trust.

3. *The man and his neighbors* (vs. 8-12). His story of the healing was simple, straightforward, modest and, at the same time, cautious; for, knowing the temper of the Pharisees, he already recognized the risk he ran.

4. *His first appearance before the Pharisees* (vs. 13-17). You mark the same straightforwardness

and/caution, and are partly amused and partly disgusted at the division amongst the Pharisees. You note, too, the growing courage of the man who had been healed. A "prophet" he now declares his healer to have been.

4. *The testimony of his parents* (vs. 18-23). Honest folk, but timorous through fear of these same Pharisees and of excommunication for confession of the Christ.

6. *The man's recall and casting out* (vs. 24-34). Mark the gathering courage of the man under inquisition. What a fine taunt, "Will ye also be His disciples?" and a finer defence, for such it is (v. 33), "If this man were not of God, He could do nothing." And how silly the conduct of the Pharisees. When they have nothing to answer, they excommunicate the man in their futile rage.

7. *Sought of the Lord Jesus* (v. 35). The same compassionate Saviour who had opened the blind man's eyes.

8. *Believing in and confessing the Lord Jesus* (vs. 36-38). Dwell on the man's question, the Lord's fuller revelation of Himself, and then the climax, "Lord, I believe, and he worshipped Him."

TOPIC FOR BRIEF PAPERS

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous. Only one topic should be given to each scholar. Sometimes all may be asked to write on the same topic. The papers to be read out in the class.)

1. Blindness and beggary in Eastern lands.
2. Show how God often uses our misfortunes for our good and for His glory.
3. The blind man as an example of prompt obedience.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

THREE GLIMPSES

BLIND AND BEGGING

SEEING AND CONFESSING

BELIEVING AND WORSHIPPING