

Do You Want To Be Healed?

John 5:1-17

Chad Scruggs

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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John 5

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What do we learn about Jesus here?
2. In John's gospel, the material world is often a window into the spiritual world (the living water at Jacob's well, the wine at Cana, the physical healing at the pool). Do you want to be healed? What needs healing in your life?
3. How do we try to manage our sin instead of really bringing it to Christ in repentance?
4. What are the Bethesda pools in your imagination - the things you're tempted to say, "If I could just have this, then all would be well"? Have you ever found one of your "pools" to be disappointing when you reached it? Why does Jesus not take the man to the pool like he asks?
5. Do you think of the church more as a palace or a hospital? Which should it be? How can we model and live out the gospel in how we welcome those who need healing?