



JULY 23/24, 2022

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 5: 1-14

OPTIONAL STUDY DURING BREAKS

As a group, read: John 5: 1-14

Let's begin with three observations...

First, Jesus is in Jerusalem and he makes a point to go to a pool where people with diseases and disabilities are waiting for a movement in the water. According to tradition, this was a sign that an angel had touched the water, thus giving it healing properties for the first person who jumped in.

The second observation is that when Jesus sees a man described as an invalid in verse 5, He goes straight to him and asks, "Do you want to get well?" (vs. 6) This is the awesome God we serve! He already knows our situation and comes straight to us asking if we want to get well. He doesn't always wait until we ask. He knows our prayers even before we pray. Why then do we need to pray? Because He wants us to practice being dependent upon Him. He doesn't want us to be self-sufficient but rather, God sufficient. He alone is sufficient for our lives. He cares about every circumstance we are in. Pastor Alec described it two weekends ago when he said that if Jesus were to show up in person in our services, He would first go to those who are hurting. Pastor Josiah described God's care for us as "problems always make space for divine appointment." Jesus always heads directly to those who are hurting. He is never too busy for us.

1. Have you ever thought your problems are too big for God to handle?
2. If you were the person at the pool, would you trust Jesus to heal you?
3. Have you ever been healed before praying and asking God to do it?

The third observation is that Jesus disappears before the man could not identify who He was. Verse 13 says, "The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there." It was only "later Jesus found Him at the temple and said to him, 'See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.'" Jesus' primary goal for healing this man wasn't about his legs; rather, it was about "healing" the rest of his life so he could live it in holiness and glorifying God. It was about his changing his lifestyle.

- If God were to heal your afflictions today, what parts of your life would you change to glorify Him?

LIVE IT:

1. If you have been healed by the Spirit in the past, are you giving Him glory today?
2. As Pastor Josiah said, sometimes God chooses NOT to heal. Why not?
3. Believe today that God can help you in whatever trails you are going through. Give it all to Him today!