



Week 3: Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.² Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. ³ Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches, ⁵ One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

⁷ “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

⁸ Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!

John 5:1-9 (NLT)

Everyday Applications from This Miracle:

- Jesus _____ me and _____ me.
- Jesus calls me to _____ and away from _____.
- Jesus’ _____ is applied in connection with my _____.

But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

¹¹ But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

¹³ The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. ¹⁴ But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

¹⁶ So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. ¹⁷ But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." ¹⁸ So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

John 5:9-18 (NLT)

Understanding God's Greater Purpose:

- Jesus is not contained by my _____.
- Jesus uses _____.
- Jesus cares for my _____, but he came for my _____.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways have you felt unseen or forgotten? How does knowing that Jesus sees you fully and understands your deepest needs change the way you see yourself and your struggles? What is one way you can respond to Jesus' deep love and awareness of your situation?
2. Are there areas in your life where you are waiting for Jesus to act? What area of your life is Jesus inviting you to take a bold step of faith and trust, believing that he will respond with power?
3. How can you remain open today to encountering Jesus in a fresh and unexpected way?

Recommended Resources

- [Miracles by C. S. Lewis](#)
- [A Million Little Miracles by Mark Batterson](#)
- [The Case for Miracles by Lee Strobel](#)

(NLT) New Living Testament

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John 5:1-9 (NLT)

Everyday Applications from This Miracle:

- Jesus sees me and knows me.
- Jesus calls me to action and away from excuses.
- Jesus’ power is applied in connection with my faith.

But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

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John 5:9-18 (NLT)

Understanding God's Greater Purpose:

- Jesus is not contained by my religious boxes.
- Jesus uses opposition.
- Jesus cares for my body, but he came for my soul.

Discussion Questions

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