

Jesus Is...

The Liberator

Read the following verses: John 5:1-18

Examining the Text:

1. Read John 5:1-9 carefully. Think about the man's situation and his psychology. How hopeful do you imagine he was when he first arrived at the pool? How faint is his hope after 38 years?
2. Consider the man's response in vv. 6-7. What should his answer have been? What does this tell you about where this man is?
3. What was the man's progressive realization of Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus tell the man to "sin no more"? What are the different implications or deductions from Jesus' statement?

Digging Deeper:

1. The Jews raised the issue of working on the Sabbath. They said the man was wrong for picking up his mat on the Sabbath. They said that Jesus was wrong for healing on the Sabbath. How does Jesus validate his actions here? (See how Jesus responded to the same accusation elsewhere (Lk. 13:15-16; Jn. 7:23).

The Heart of the Matter:

1. Are you stuck in a hopeless situation and feel as though there is no way out? Share what you are facing with others.
2. Do you see others in hopeless situations and feel there is no hope for them (have you written them off)?