



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Don't Settle for Less than the Best

Bible Reading: John 5:1-16

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

The Third Sign – Jesus heals a sick man

A. A Sign of the coming kingdom – Isa. 35: 4-6

B. The setting:

1. The pool in Jerusalem,
 1. outside the temple
 2. apparently had supernatural powers,
 3. not related to a personal God
2. A multitude of people
 - Not permitted to enter the temple because they were blind, lame, disabled;
 - Excluded from temple worship; marginalized, not able to participate in Jewish feasts.

God's generous grace

A. Jesus finds the man – sick for 38 years

1. Jesus initiates
 - "Do you want to get well?"
2. Why did God approach this man?
 - God's sovereignty, no reason from human point of view

B. Jesus ignores

1. The man's response to his question
2. The pool

3. Human understanding and effort to get well
 1. Seeking things that are outside of a relationship with God
- C. Jesus directs
 1. "Get up, pick up your mat and walk"
 2. The man is totally helpless
 1. "God helps those who **cannot** help themselves"
 3. You are leaving this place and not coming back
 4. A display of God's generosity and grace

The man's first encounter with Jesus

- A. Not requesting healing
 - Contrasts with previous case where the official asked Jesus to come and heal his son.
- B. Stuck in his concept of the way to be healed
 - It is all about the pool – outside of God
 - We try all kinds of ways to "heal ourselves"
 - God is the last resort
 - His understanding is that healing is limited to being the first into the pool – only one wins, zero sum
 - He is a hopeless case
 - Produces a competitive attitude
 - Wrong concept that God is limited
- C. No indication of faith
- D. Doesn't recognize Jesus, nor tries to find out who he is

The man's second encounter with Jesus in the temple – 14-15

- A. Recognizing it was Jesus only by name
- B. Jesus warns him
 1. Recognize that you have been made well
 2. Don't sin anymore
 1. "sin" in John is not believing
 2. Warning because there is no sign of faith
 3. Miracles or signs are to point us to Jesus – John 20:31
 3. Fails to recognize who Jesus really is.
 1. contrast with Samaritans – "the Savior of the world" (4:42)
 2. contrast with royal official (4:46-53)
 3. Gives his name to the Jewish leaders
 - Different views as to what this man's purpose was
 - May be a betrayer
 4. Not rejected like the blind man in John 9
- C. No positive response to Jesus' healing him
 1. His healing should have produced a positive response, but it appears there is nothing – no gratitude, no faith, no amazement
 2. No sign of faith
 3. Miracles do not necessarily produce faith
 - Some say that if they see a miracle they will believe
 - This case proves otherwise

Conclusion:

- A. God is gracious and generous even without us asking – (not our attitude)
 - God helps those who **cannot** help themselves
- B. Miracles do not always result in people believing
 - He was healed but didn't get what he should have – faith
 - Miracle is not the goal; faith is the goal
 - He got second best – no eternal life
- C. We should have a response of faith/believing to God's grace towards us
 - Don't settle for less than the best, merely a miracle
 - Believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that by believing we may life in his name