

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
Jesus is Lord of Sabbath
John 5:1-18 (page 742)

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The Context (John 5:1-4)

- Jesus is in Jerusalem at a pool (v 1-2)
 - *Bethesda* = house of grace or house of outpouring
- Jesus comes to a place with a multitude of needy people (v 3)
- *What happened to v 4?* - it is a later addition to explain the water moving

The Cure (John 5:5-9a)

- Jesus' grace toward us is unlimited

The Outcome (John 5:9b-15)

- The man was healed on the Sabbath (v 9b)
- The Jewish authorities were agitated (v 10a, 12)
 - They are more concerned with “rules” than the healing (v 10a)
 - They fail to see the point of the miraculous healing (v 12)

The Controversy (John 5:16-18)

- The Jews begin to intensify their persecution of Jesus because they believe:
 - He is a Sabbath breaker (v 16, 18a)
 - He is a blasphemer - claiming to be God (v 18b)
- As God Himself, Jesus is Lord over Sabbath (Luke 6:1-12)

Closing Thoughts on the Message....

Do you want to be healed?

The aim of God in healing our body is the healing of our soul

Be responsible to respond to legalism when it seeks to invade places of grace

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 5:1-18 (Week Eleven)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

Chapter 5 finds us back in Jerusalem as Jesus returns there for a certain feast day. It is a famous passage of the healing of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda. Most people see the focus of the passage as the miracle of the healing. But something far more sinister is going on here as a struggle between the Jewish leaders and Jesus comes into focus over the issue of authority - specifically, "*Who has authority over the Sabbath?*" It sets the stage for many more showdowns between Jesus and these legalistic rulers of Judaism and reveals to us determination and, eventual success, in making sure Jesus is taken out of the way.

Discussion Questions

The paralyzed man in the passage had been trying for years to get to the pool on his own to cure his condition, but could not. How is that symbolic of our need for a Savior? Why is it often difficult for people to accept Christ's free offer of salvation? (read Ephesians 2:2-9)

Why do you think Jesus' offer of healing was rejected by both the paralyzed man and the religious leaders? How do we reject His offer of healing in our lives today?

In vs 10-12 the Jews are more concerned with keeping *their* law than celebrating the man's healing. Define religious legalism. Why is legalism so dangerous?

What is the balance in keeping the moral code given in the Bible and being legalistic in your practice? How do you handle a person who is legalistic? What part did a legalistic attitude play in the Jews' failure to see Jesus as the Son of God. Explain.

Think of a time when you have experienced Christ's transforming power in your life. Did you (1) fail to recognize, or acknowledge, God (*paralyzed man*) and/or (2) did you use that experience to encourage others by sharing what God had done in your life? Explain.

Discuss this statement: Everyone wants his/her *circumstances* to change, but not everyone wants *to change*. Why?

Why didn't Jesus heal everyone? Why did He heal anyone?

Taking it to the streets....

"*Do you want to be healed?*" Is Jesus' question significant or is it unnecessary? In what way do you think it relates to your life right now?

Has there been a time where you responded to Jesus more like....the paralyzed man? The Jews? Explain.

Are you willing to submit your whole life to Jesus and obey His word? How will you start this week?

What was the most significant thing you learned from the message in 5:1-18? Explain.