

January 28, 2024

Encounters Healing at the Pool

Scripture: John 5:1-15

Big Idea: The end goal of the healing of the paralyzed man was not about the healing of an atrophied body, but a call for a healing of an atrophied soul.

The Challenge: We live in a world in which we are fighting. Life is hard and we are forced to face those challenges every day - day in day out. Over time, our bodies are worn out, beat up, and calloused. However, it is our soul that is as easily susceptible to being worn out, beat up, and calloused. Jesus offers complete healing restoration, but our hearts can be too calloused to see what He is offering us.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: That we would see the miracle of Jesus redemptive work and we would respond by choosing to focus on Jesus, allowing the Spirit to do a work of transformation in our soul.

Questions for Discussion:

1. THE PLACE: Bethesda (v.1-2)
 - What are the embarrassing places of your life that hard to be at? Places in your own soul where you don't like going?
 - As you see yourself there, what is Jesus revealing about you, your sin, your nature?
2. THE PERSON: Paralytic Man (v.3)
 - The paralytic man most likely did not realize the state of his condition, expect for someone from the outside to see it. Who in your life is able to speak to your blind spots, dark places, and vulnerable protected areas?
 - How has a prolonged state of being in this condition effected the state of your own soul?
3. THE ASK: Do you want to be made well? (v.5-7)
 - The paralyzed man was waiting for healing form the pool. What are the things that you have been relying on for years for relief and freedom?
 - In this case, the man thought Jesus was asking him about healing for his body (atrophy of the body), but Jesus was also asking a deeper question about the atrophy of the soul. What is Jesus asking that you are not seeing?
 - How does the fact that this healing did not require faith change how you view your relationship to Jesus, intimacy with the Father and relationship to the work of the Spirit?
4. THE MIC DROP: It's not about the healing. (v.8-13)
 - Jesus asked the man to pick up his own matt, a sign of the complete healing. What does complete healing look like scripture? What does that look like for you?
 - We talked about Global Meaning and Situation Meaning. What are beliefs that you have about the world (how it works, why bad things happen, values systems)? What is the

Situational Meaning (how you view your current circumstances that you are in) that Jesus is trying to intersect into your Global Belief structure?

5. THE REPOSE: Go and sin no more. (v.14-15)

- The miracle in John 9 shows us a contrast to the healing miracle of John 5 The chart below shows us similarities between the two accounts, and yet their responses were so different. Read through the two different accounts.
- Why was there such a contrast in the response?
- What is the Holy Spirit pointing out about your own life?
- Finally, in honest reflection, does your soul want to be awakened?

The Lame Man

1. History described (38 years; 5:5)
2. Jesus takes initiative to heal (5:6)
3. Pool (Beth-zatha) has healing for some (5:7)
4. Jesus heals on the Sabbath (5:9)
5. Accusation of Sabbath violation (5:9)
6. People ask who healed him (5:12)
7. Man doesn't know where Jesus is (5:13)
8. Jesus finds and challenges him (5:14)
9. Jesus hints at sin-suffering nexus (5:14)
10. Man goes to Jesus' opponents (5:15)
11. Jesus works as his Father works (5:17)

The Blind Man

1. History described (blind from birth; 9:1)
2. Jesus takes initiative to heal (9:6)
3. Pool (Siloam) heals blind man (9:7)
4. Jesus heals on the Sabbath (9:14)
5. Accusation of Sabbath violation (9:16)
6. People ask how he was healed (9:15)
7. Man doesn't know where Jesus is (9:12)
8. Jesus finds and invites him to faith (9:35)
9. Jesus makes no sin-suffering nexus (9:3)
10. Opponents cast man out (9:34-35)
11. Jesus does works of his Sender (9:4)