

The healing at the pool

John 5:1-15



Home Group Notes 23.01.22

1. Can you think of an incidence of healing of someone you know? Share it with the group

The man who encountered Jesus had been paralysed for 38 years. Without good healthcare (or friends) to support him, dress, clean and provide for him we must assume he would have looked a mess, dirty and stank. Of all the disabled people at the pool that day, he is the only one we read of who Jesus healed.

2. Why do you think Jesus healed him and not the others?

3. Can you think of groups of people who might be a modern day equivalent to this man in our society? Hidden away, isolated and socially ostracised? A difficult and honest question: How do you think of them? Would you make a B line for them - why / why not?

Pause for a moment and lift those people to God and ask Him if there is anything you as a small group can do to help.

4. Why did Jesus ask him if he wanted to be well? What would change in the healed man's life if he was?

He had faith to believe that Jesus could heal him, and he was in the most extraordinary way! He really was the 'impossible' healing and yet Jesus healed him!

5. Is there something you would love for Jesus to heal in your life or the life of someone you know?

Why don't you pray for that as a group.

After he is healed he goes to the temple to show himself to the priest (who will declare he is 'clean' and able to mix with society again) and give thanks to God for the healing. There he is told off for 'carrying his mat' on the sabbath. Although God has healed him, the teacher of the law sees only that he has broken the rules.

6. How do you think we can make the same mistake of missing what God is doing because its not 'following the rules'?

Finally Jesus meets the now healed invalid again and tells him to stop sinning. Although he is healed, the greater work of God is for him to know forgiveness and 'born again' new life in Him.

7. Why do you think that is a 'greater work' than healing?

We often place value on the 'outer things' being the demonstration of God's love for us and so we can see our good health, happiness and provision as signs of His favour. When there is an absence of any of these we can see this as God's absence or lack of care, which in turn can lead to disappointment / disillusionment or distrust of Him, That is not true!!! He died for us, rose for us, made us alive in Him and filled and goes on filling us with His Spirit. BUT.....What God is most concerned with is the state of your soul (or heart). A heart turned fully to Him allows Him to fill it, root it in His unfailing and perfect love that will free us from ourselves and give us a life in ALL its fullness regardless of circumstances. That is true life.

8. Can you think of a time where the suffering you have experienced has brought you closer to God? Could you surrender your circumstances to Him and ask he'd use it to draw you closer to Him?

Why not finish by praying for one another to be filled with God's spirit and know Jesus more deeply. And where there is hurt and disappointment find a space to name that and tell God how you honestly feel (either in the group, with a close friend, or if that is too challenging to God Himself)