

101120 Growth Group Study

Do You Want to Get Well?

John 5:1-18



Background: We begin a new section in the Gospel of John this week. In these middle chapters of John, by what Jesus says and does, he sets himself apart from any other person who has ever lived. To begin, he heals a man who was lame for 38 years. Before he heals him, though, he asks him a curious question: Do you want to get well? Instead of answering the question, the man seemingly responds with complaints and excuses. It's a good question for us to consider. Do we want to get well? Jesus, God with us, stands at the door and knocks, and offers us living water. Do we really want to get well?

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 5:1-18

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." 11 But he answered

them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - In this visit to Jerusalem for a festival, Jesus doesn’t first go to the temple. Instead, he goes to where people need him. What does this say about Jesus? Who/where in our community can we do the same? (Examples: Cityteam Oakland, Yerba Buena HS food bank Mondays)
 - What kinds of excuses and justifications do you find yourself giving when faced with the (spiritual) question, “Do you want to get well”? Or, “Do you want to function better in life?”
 - In the end, we have to change and stop being Lord of our own lives and surrender Lordship to Jesus. What would it look like for you to fully embrace His Lordship over your life?
 - This text reminds us that the Sabbath is about making time holy in restfulness. How/when will you take a Sabbath rest this week to reorient your focus to God, revitalize your life with God, and restore the joy of your salvation? When we stop and rest, we affirm God’s great plan over the physical world, including our physical bodies.
 - God the Father and Jesus the Son are in the business of transforming us into fully alive humans who look & function like Jesus. Fill in the blank for yourself: Jesus is

telling me to “Get up, take up my bed, and walk (away) from _____
and find rest and contentment in Him”.

- Take to heart Philippians 1:6: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*