

Wednesday Night Bible Study
"Tough Questions From Jesus"
John 5:1-9 (ESV)

(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.

3 truths about following Jesus

1) Following Jesus will bring you to places where you will minister to many different people

- a) The life of Christ ministered to and touched all levels of society
- b) The call of Christ to His followers is to do the same
- c) The path of Christ will lead us to love and serve people of all backgrounds

2) Following Jesus will change us regardless of how long we've been on a different path

- a) It did not matter how long this man had been an invalid, Christ could heal him
 - i) Outside circumstances are never a problem for Jesus to overcome
 - ii) This man's age and circumstance only exhibit the great power Jesus had in healing
- b) It does not matter how long a habit or belief has been in our life, Christ can change us
 - i) Time is neither an excuse or a reason why God cannot do a work in your life
 - ii) The greatest obstacle anyone faces in allowing Christ to work in their life is themselves

3) Following Jesus will confront us with the question, "Do you really want to change?"

- a) When Jesus was asking this man do you want to be healed He was asking about more than his physical health
 - i) His mobility would be changed
 - ii) His outlook would be changed
 - iii) His living conditions would be changed
 - iv) His friends would change
 - v) His workload would change
 - vi) His popularity would change

- b) When Jesus asks us do we want to be healed He is asking about more than simply washing our sins away, or getting us into heaven
- i) Who we love will change
 - ii) How we love will change
 - iii) What we love will change
 - iv) How we act will change
 - v) What we say will change
 - vi) What we know as right and wrong will change
 - vii) What breaks our heart will change
 - viii) Who we are popular with will change
- c) The Gospel is something that impacts every fiber of our being, it is not just soap for our sins