



LET HIM BE KNOWN

Healing the Paralyzed Man

WEEK 3

WARM-UP

- Share about a time someone gave you a helping hand when you really needed it. What happened?
- Tell us about a time someone forgave you for doing something you felt guilty about even before you apologized.
- Was there a time when you did something that did not turn out well, and you suffered the consequences of your actions? What happened, and how did you deal with it?

WORD ⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."
⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. **JOHN 5:8-9**

(Read also **JOHN 5:1-15**.)

In Jerusalem, there was a pool called Bethesda. According to the story, anyone who was able to touch the water first after it was stirred up would be healed. At that pool, Jesus saw a lame man who had been there for a long time, and He healed him. Later on, Jesus told the man not to sin anymore, so that nothing worse would happen to him. This sign shows how Jesus does miracles to deliver us from the consequences of our sins. What does this sign tell us about the greatness of God's grace?

1 | God's grace supersedes our hopelessness and misery.

⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When 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?" **JOHN 5:5-6**

To "supersede" means to "take the place of" or to "remove and replace." Jesus saw the longtime hopelessness of the lame man. He must have also known that the man's physical condition was a consequence of his own sinful actions. However, Jesus still approached the man and asked if he wanted to be healed. God's grace is not only for our physical healing, but also to save us from our separation from Him. If you were the man, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus' question?

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2 | God's grace supersedes our own effort.

*⁷The 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." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. . . . ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." **JOHN 5:7-9, 14***

The lame man answered Jesus' question by explaining that no one was available to help him, and that he could not help himself to the pool. At that moment, Jesus told the man to stand and healed the man. Think about the joy the man must have felt! It was only later that Jesus invited the man to turn away from sin so that *nothing worse* would happen to

him. This miracle shows us that it is not about what we do, but what Jesus did for us. What does Romans 2:4 say about repentance and God's loving kindness?

3 | God's grace supersedes our religiosity.

*¹⁰So 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." ¹¹But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" **JOHN 5:10-11***

At that time, on one day in the week called the Sabbath, it was forbidden to work or do any kind of labor. The rules about this were so detailed that you could not even roll up your bed on that day. Instead of celebrating with the lame man about his healing, the Jews protested that he took up his bed on the Sabbath. But, God's grace is greater than religiosity and legalism. How did Jesus respond to the Jews in John 5:17? What does this say about Him?

This third sign foreshadowed a greater miracle that Jesus would do, when He died on the cross and saved every person from the power of sin over us and its consequences. Jesus used this sign to reveal His greater overall plan for all people.

APPLICATION

- The apostle Peter wrote an encouragement to the readers of his letter that Jesus overcame the impossible, died for our sins, and has healed us *by his wounds* (1 Peter 2:24). Do you believe in this truth? Would you like to receive this saving power today?
- Is there an area in your life that you are holding on to more than the finished work of Jesus? Ask God for the grace to surrender that part of your life and to trust Him wholeheartedly.
- Do you know a friend or family member who is in need of healing? Pray with someone this week for complete healing and restoration.

PRAYER

- Praise God for His miraculous power to heal us physically and spiritually, even when things seem hopeless or impossible.
- Ask God for forgiveness for relying on your own abilities instead of His abundant grace.
- Pray for someone who is in need of healing, whether physically, emotionally, or mentally. Ask God to use you to be a channel of His love to this person.



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