

**SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - March 13th - 14th**

**Title:** No Lifeguard on Duty

**Text:** John 5:1-17

**Target:** To discover why Jesus would do a miracle as a sign for a man who doesn't express gratitude in being healed.

**Getting Started**

**Question #1:** To get started, go ahead and read verses 1-4 together as a group. Just like the individuals around the pool, because of man's sin, we live in a broken world full of pain and suffering. To start off with your discussion today, discuss where you see brokenness in the world or in your own life. How has that brokenness affected how you view yourself and God?

**I. The Marginalized Multitude: (Vs. 1-4)**

- A. The Location:** *"Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades."* (Vs. 2)
  - 1. **Sheep Gate:** Temple Sacrifice
  - 2. **Pool of Bethesda:** House of Outpouring
  - 3. **Five roofed Colonnades:** Number of Grace
- B. The Legend:** *"Waiting for the moving of the water, for an angel of the Lord went down at certain season into the pool, and stirred the water"* (Vs.4\*)
  - 1. **Heavenly Angels stirred the Water**
  - 2. **Healing Agents in the Water**
- C. The Longing:** *"Whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had."* (Vs. 4\*)

**Question #2:** Oftentimes in the brokenness of our world, we search for hope in things other than Jesus, just like how the people looked for hope and healing in the pool! This might be relationships, money, success, or even addiction. Where in your life have you looked for hope in places other than Jesus, and how has that affected you and your life?

**II. A Merciful Messiah: (Vs. 5-9)**

- A. Divine Compassion:**
  - 1. **He saw him:** *"When Jesus saw him lying there."* (Vs. 6a)
  - 2. **He knew him:** *"...knew that he had already been there a long time."* (Vs. 6b)
  - 3. **He asked him:** *"Do you want to be healed?"* (Vs. 6c)
- B. Divine Command:** *Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."* (Vs. 8)

- C. **Divine Change:** *“And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.”* (Vs. 9)
1. **No Request for Healing**
  2. **No Response of Faith**
  3. **No Reaction of Thanksgiving**
- D. **Divine Conversation:** *“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.”* (Vs. 14)

**Question #3:** Taking verse 9 into consideration, it’s really easy to think about the man being healed and ask, “How could he not thank Jesus, and jump up and down in joy?” But how often do we forget to thank God for the things He’s done? It’s really easy to get the fix we were looking for and going right back to our normal lives, forgetting what Jesus has done for us! Discuss with your group the things that God has done in your life and how you’re thankful for them!

### III. **The Message in the Miracle:** (Vs. 10-17)

- A. **Jesus is Sovereign in the Story:** *“The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.”* (Vs. 15)
- B. **Jesus is Confronting Legalism:** *“And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.”* (Vs. 16)
- C. **Jesus is Equal with God:** *“But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”* (Vs. 17)

**Question #4:** As a group, take some time to think about the ramifications of Jesus seeing the man, knowing the man, and asking him a question that would ultimately lead to his healing. Jesus sees the broken, knows the broken, and He is faithful to restore and heal the broken. Knowing this, what does that say about who Jesus is, and how we get to find out hope in Him, knowing that He is sovereign, and equal with the Father? Discuss with your group some practical ways that you can begin to find all your hope in Jesus, instead of the things of this world!

**Take Away:** If Jesus would do all this for a man who would sell him out, then how much more would He do for someone who is sold out for him.

**Bonus:** Listen to the song *Waymaker* with your group, to worship God for always working and moving, even when we don’t see it:

[https://youtu.be/iJCV\\_2H9xD0](https://youtu.be/iJCV_2H9xD0)