



Series - That You May Believe: A Study In John

Speaker - Pastor Nate Garn

Message - The Pool At Bethesda

Sermon Big Picture - Jesus encounters a man seeking healing, but who was looking to superstitious means. Jesus not only heals him, but in doing so, breaks the tradition of the Pharisees.

Scripture: John 5:1-18

Examination

1. People were gathered at the pool at Bethesda seeking healing for their infirmity's. How do these "invalids" represent us? In what ways are we like them?
2. There was a legend that an angel would stir up the waters there in the pool so they would possess healing powers, this is why the crippled and invalids would go there. How does this superstitious belief mirror the type of superstition that many seek after today?
3. In V.7, how do we see the absolute inability of the man to do anything to effect his own healing?
4. This healing took place on the sabbath. The Jewish leaders of the day had set up rules around actual law of God. Their rule said that this man couldn't pick up his mat, and so they accuse him of violating the sabbath. This man had been crippled 38 years. How does legalism and self-righteousness not only blind us to God's work, but even oppose it?
5. How does V.14 reveal that while physical infirmity is bad, sin leads to something even worse?
6. Jesus wasn't actually breaking the sabbath Law, but only the rules of the Pharisees. How do we see the contrast between them of the priority of the self-righteous to "keep their rules" and the priority of God to believe on Christ and be forgiven?

Application

1. What weakness, what infirmity in you do you need healed?
2. How have you seen the anti-gospel of self righteousness in your own life? How has Jesus re-directed you to His grace?

Personal Discipline

Take your sin, your hurts, your weakness, your burdens, to the Lord in prayer. Cease from trying to find hope and healing in worldly things, and trust in Christ to deliver you. He will show Himself faithful!