

Message title: God's Work

Big Idea: We can rest & work knowing God is always working.

5:1 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, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Verse 4 gives us context, but it was not in some early texts, so NKJV & KJV have it & several others do not.

5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Infirmity means "weakness, lack of strength."

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

God most often works with our will not against it.

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

Don't leave an option to go back if God calls you forward.

v9 "And that day was the Sabbath."

The Sabbath was a day to cease from work.

Mark 2:27 And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath

10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." **11** He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" **12** Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" **13** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place. **14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

Galatians 4:9 NIV But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. **16** For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” **18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. **21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. **22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, **23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Jesus was always doing what the Father does & wanted Him to do.

1. Do you want to be made well?
2. What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus?
3. What work should you be doing w/the Lord?
4. Where should you be resting in the Lord?

LIFE Group Guideline

General Timeline: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time, but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking to you about from this message?
2. Why do you think Jesus started with a question about being made well?
3. What might people keep or do to make going backward spiritually easier or more tempting?
4. Have you or someone you know been more concerned about keeping rules than keeping relationship with God? How can you tell if this is happening?
5. Does resting in the Lord or working with the Lord need more of your focus right now? Why do you think that?