



## Summary

In John 5:1-14, we encounter Jesus at the pool of Bethesda, where He performs a miraculous healing that challenges us to examine our own spiritual condition. The central question posed to the paralyzed man - 'Do you want to be made well?' - resonates deeply with our own struggles and hesitations in faith. This story isn't just about physical healing; it's a profound metaphor for spiritual transformation. We're reminded that Jesus sees beyond our excuses and circumstances, offering us the chance for complete renewal. The man's immediate obedience to Jesus' command teaches us about the power of faith, even when we don't fully understand who Jesus is. As we reflect on this passage, we're challenged to consider what areas of our lives need Christ's healing touch and whether we're truly ready to leave our old ways behind. The call to 'sin no more' isn't just a command, but an invitation to live in the empowering grace of God, trusting that He provides the strength to overcome temptation and walk in newness of life.





## Points

Title: Do You Want to Be Made Well? The Power of Christ's Healing

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the healing of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda, emphasizing Jesus' power to heal both physically and spiritually. It delves into the nature of faith, the importance of responding to Christ's call, and the transformative power of salvation. The pastor highlights the personal nature of Jesus' interaction with individuals and the need for believers to fully commit to following Christ, even when it means significant life changes.

Key Points:

- Jesus' question "Do you want to be made well?" applies to spiritual healing as much as physical healing
- True faith is not about quantity but about in whom it is placed
- Responding to Christ's call requires counting the cost and being willing to change
- Salvation makes us a new creation, freeing us from past sins
- Resisting temptation and living a holy life is possible through Christ's power

Scripture Reference:

- John 5:1-14 (The healing at the Pool of Bethesda)

Stories:

- The pastor's personal experience of coming to faith at age 38
- The healing of ten lepers, where only one returned to thank Jesus (Luke 17:11-19)
- The pastor's childhood experience of sensing God's call while attending a Methodist church



## Scripture

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. John 5:1-9 (Main passage being discussed)
2. John 20:30-31
3. Matthew 20:16
4. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
5. Matthew 24:24
6. Luke 17:11-19
7. Matthew 10 (alluded to, not specific verse)
8. Luke 14:25-33
9. 2 Corinthians 5:17
10. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Additional relevant themes and suggested verses:

1. Faith and healing: Mark 11:22-24
2. Jesus' power to heal: Matthew 8:16-17
3. Spiritual transformation: Romans 12:2
4. Resisting temptation: James 4:7
5. God's power working in believers: Ephesians 3:20
6. Counting the cost of following Jesus: Luke 9:23-24
7. New life in Christ: Galatians 2:20
8. God's faithfulness: 1 Thessalonians 5:24
9. Repentance and turning from sin: Acts 3:19
10. The importance of obedience: John 14:15



## Quotes

Do you want to be made well? The word for made is *genomi*, which means caused to be, and the word for well is *hygies*, or *hygies*, really, H-Y-G-I-E-S, which I assume is where our word hygiene comes from, which means to be healthy, it means to be whole, it means to be well.

You don't have to know who Jesus is in order to be saved by Jesus. You'll learn soon enough as this man did.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.

Jesus never commands us to do what he does not empower us to do.

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man. But God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it.

When Jesus says, sin no more, and make no mistake about it, he's saying that to us this morning as well. When Jesus says, sin no more, it sounds so simple, it sounds too simple for some to believe it's possible.

The same power that made the man well to stand by faith is also available to him to resist the temptation to sin, how? By faith.



## Discussion Questions

How might our own excuses or circumstances prevent us from fully embracing Christ's offer of healing and transformation in our lives?

In what ways do we sometimes focus on physical healing or worldly solutions, while neglecting our deeper spiritual needs?

How can we cultivate the kind of faith that enables us to respond immediately to Jesus' commands, even when they seem difficult or impossible?

What are some areas in our lives where we might be 'lying by the pool' for years, waiting for change instead of actively seeking Christ's healing?

How does Jesus' command to 'sin no more' challenge our understanding of grace and personal responsibility in the Christian walk?

In what ways might our religious traditions or interpretations sometimes hinder us from recognizing and receiving God's work in our lives?

How can we apply the concept of 'counting the cost' to our decision to follow Christ, while also embracing the transformative power of His grace?

What does it mean to have faith 'as small as a mustard seed,' and how might this understanding change our approach to spiritual growth and obedience?

How can we cultivate a heart that instinctively turns to worship and thanksgiving after experiencing God's healing or blessing in our lives?

In what ways might God be asking us 'Do you want to be made well?' in areas of our lives beyond just physical healing?



## Small Group Guide: Do You Want to Be Made Well?

### Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' question "Do you want to be made well?" is not just about physical healing, but spiritual transformation.
2. Being made well by Jesus requires faith and may involve significant life changes.
3. The size of our faith matters less than in whom we place our faith.
4. Jesus empowers us to resist temptation and overcome sin in our lives.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The man by the pool had been ill for 38 years. Are there areas in your life where you've become comfortable with your "illness" (spiritual, emotional, relational)?
3. Jesus asked, "Do you want to be made well?" How would you honestly answer this question in your current life situation?
4. The sermon mentioned that everything changes when we truly follow Christ. What changes have you experienced or are you hesitant about in your walk with Jesus?
5. How do you understand the concept of having "faith as small as a mustard seed"? How does this encourage or challenge you?
6. Jesus told the healed man to "sin no more." How do you reconcile this command with the reality of our ongoing struggle with sin?
7. The sermon emphasized that Jesus never commands what He doesn't empower us to do. How have you experienced this truth in your own life?

### Practical Applications:

1. Reflection Exercise: Take some time this week to prayerfully consider areas in your life where you need Jesus to "make you well." Write these down and commit them to prayer.
2. Faith Challenge: Identify one area where you struggle to trust God fully. Each day this week, consciously choose to place your faith in God regarding this issue.



3. Temptation Strategy: Based on 1 Corinthians 10:13, develop a personal plan for how you will "escape" when faced with a common temptation in your life.
4. Gratitude Practice: Like the healed man who went to the temple, cultivate thankfulness. Each day, write down one way God has "made you well" spiritually or physically.
5. Accountability: Share with a trusted friend or group member one specific sin you're committed to resisting this week, and ask them to pray for and check in with you.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we invite you to make us well - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Give us the faith to trust you fully and the strength to follow your commands. Help us to resist temptation and live in the freedom you provide. Thank you for your transforming power in our lives. Amen.





## Daily Devotional

### Day 1: The Power of Christ's Healing Touch

Reading: John 5:1-9

Devotional: Jesus' encounter with the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda reminds us of His power to heal not just physical ailments, but spiritual ones as well. As you read this passage, reflect on areas in your life where you feel "paralyzed" - perhaps by fear, doubt, or sin. Just as Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be made well?", He asks us the same question today. Are you ready to let go of excuses and embrace the healing power of Christ? Remember, it's not the size of your faith that matters, but in whom you place it. Pray for the courage to step out in faith and trust Jesus' power to transform your life.

### Day 2: Responding to God's Call

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Jesus doesn't shy away from telling us the cost of discipleship. As you read this passage, consider what it means to "count the cost" of following Christ. What might you need to give up or change in your life to fully commit to Him? Remember the man at the pool who immediately obeyed Jesus' command to "rise, take up your bed and walk." How quickly do you respond when God calls you to action? Reflect on areas where you might be hesitating to follow God's leading. Ask for the strength to say "yes" to God, even when it means stepping out of your comfort zone.

### Day 3: The Journey from Healing to Wholeness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 5:10-15

Devotional: Physical healing is often just the beginning of our spiritual journey. After Jesus healed the man at the pool, He later found him at the temple and said, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." This reminds us that true wholeness involves ongoing spiritual transformation. As a new creation in Christ, we're called to leave our old ways behind. Reflect on habits or attitudes that you need to "sin no more" against. How can you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in becoming more like Christ? Remember, the same power that raised you to new life is available to help you resist temptation and grow in holiness.

### Day 4: Faith in the Midst of Suffering

Reading: Romans 5:1-5, John 5:5-7

Devotional: The man at the pool had been suffering for 38 years before his encounter with Jesus. In our own lives, we may face seasons of prolonged suffering or waiting. As you read these passages, consider how suffering can produce perseverance, character, and hope. How has God used difficult times in your life to shape you? Remember that even in our lowest moments, God is present and working. Like the man at the pool, we may not always understand why we suffer, but we can trust that God sees us and has a purpose. Pray for the faith to see God's hand at work, even in challenging circumstances.





Day 5: Bearing Witness to God's Grace

Reading: Acts 3:1-10, John 5:15-16

Devotional: After being healed, the man at the pool became a living testimony to Jesus' power, even though he didn't fully understand who Jesus was yet. Similarly, the lame man healed by Peter and John immediately began "walking and leaping and praising God." Our transformed lives are powerful witnesses to God's grace. How has God worked in your life recently? Who needs to hear your story of God's faithfulness? Take time to thank God for His work in your life, and ask for opportunities to share your testimony with others. Remember, you don't need to have all the answers - simply share what Jesus has done for you.

