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Sermon Recap: Helping People Believe

John 5:1-18 | Bedrock Community Church

Sermon Summary

In this powerful message from John 5, we explore how Jesus meets us in our brokenness and reveals himself as the Son of God. The story of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda shows us that Jesus sees each individual in the crowd and offers healing that goes far beyond the physical—He offers eternal transformation.

Key Points:

- 1. Do You Have the Right Compassion?** Jesus saw one man among the multitude and asked, "Do you want to be healed?" He meets people exactly where they are, in their brokenness. We don't need to get our lives together before coming to Jesus—He accepts us as we are.
- 2. Do You Have the Right Clarity?** The man made excuses, but Jesus cut through with laser focus: "Get up, take up your bed and walk." We must direct people to Jesus himself, not just to religious systems or church programs. Jesus is the answer, not just church attendance.
- 3. Do You Have the Right Christology?** Jesus declared, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." He wasn't just a miracle worker—He claimed equality with God. The transforming power of Jesus should be evident in how we live our lives daily.

Application Questions:

- Who is the "one in the crowd" God is directing you to reach?
 - Are you sharing the words and truth of Jesus, or just good advice?
 - Does your life show the transforming power of Christ at work?
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5-Day Devotional: Seeing Jesus Clearly

Day 1: Jesus Sees You in the Crowd

Read: John 5:1-6

The Pool of Bethesda was crowded with sick people—blind, lame, paralyzed—all waiting for healing. Yet Jesus saw one man who had been there for 38 years. In a sea of need, Jesus focused on the individual.

You might feel like just another face in the crowd today. Maybe you're surrounded by people but feel unseen. Perhaps your struggle has lasted so long that you've given up hope of things changing. But Jesus sees you. He knows exactly how long you've been waiting, exactly what you're facing.

Jesus didn't walk past this man. He stopped, looked at him, and engaged him personally. The same Jesus who saw that one man sees you today—in your specific situation, with your particular pain, in your unique brokenness.

Reflect:

- Do you believe Jesus sees you individually, or do you feel lost in the crowd?
- What have you been waiting for healing in for a long time?

Pray: "Jesus, thank you that I'm not invisible to you. You see me exactly where I am. Help me believe that you care about my specific situation and that you have the power to change it. Amen."

Day 2: Come As You Are

Read: Romans 5:6-8

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is the heart of the gospel—Jesus didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up. He came to us in our mess.

The man at Bethesda had been sick for 38 years. He hadn't gotten better on his own. He couldn't fix himself. And Jesus didn't require him to try. He simply asked, "Do you want to be healed?"



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We often think we need to get our act together before we can approach God. We tell ourselves, "When I stop this sin, then I'll pray more. When I fix this area of my life, then I'll get serious about church. When I'm a better person, then God will accept me."

But that's not how Jesus works. He meets us in our brokenness. He doesn't say, "Clean yourself up and then come to me." He says, "Come to me, and I will make you clean."

Reflect:

- What areas of your life do you think you need to "fix" before God will fully accept you?
- How does knowing that Jesus accepts you as you are change your approach to Him?

Pray: "Lord, I confess that I've tried to earn your acceptance. Thank you that you love me exactly as I am. Help me come to you with my mess instead of hiding it. Amen."

Day 3: Stop Making Excuses

Read: John 5:7-9

When Jesus asked if the man wanted to be healed, he responded with excuses: "I have no one to help me... someone else always gets there first." He had explanations for why healing hadn't happened, but Jesus cut through all of it: "Get up, take up your bed and walk."

We're experts at making excuses. "I would follow Jesus more closely, but I'm too busy." "I would share my faith, but I don't know enough." "I would change, but my circumstances are too difficult." "I would trust God, but you don't understand my situation."

Jesus offers clear direction: obey what He's telling you to do right now. Stop waiting for perfect conditions. Stop looking for someone else to help you into the pool. Jesus himself is standing right in front of you, offering healing and new life.



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The man could have argued more. Instead, he obeyed—and immediately he was healed. What would happen if you stopped making excuses and simply obeyed what Jesus is clearly telling you to do?

Reflect:

- What excuses have you been making for not fully following Jesus?
- What is one clear thing Jesus is asking you to do that you've been avoiding?

Pray: "Jesus, forgive me for my excuses. I confess that I've been looking everywhere else for help instead of simply obeying you. Give me the courage to do what you're asking me to do today. Amen."

Day 4: Point People to Jesus, Not Religion

Read: John 5:10-16

After the man was healed, the religious leaders were more concerned about Sabbath rules than the miracle. They focused on the mat he was carrying instead of the life that had been transformed. They pointed to religious systems instead of recognizing Jesus.

It's easy to do the same thing. We invite people to church instead of to Jesus. We point them to programs instead of to a Person. We emphasize behavior modification instead of heart transformation.

Church is good. Community is important. Biblical practices matter. But none of these things save us—only Jesus does. If we're not careful, we can build our lives around religious activity while missing the relationship Jesus offers.

The man went back to the temple, falling into his old routine. Jesus found him again and said, "Stop sinning, or something worse may happen." Jesus wanted more than physical healing for him—He wanted complete transformation.

Are you pointing people to Jesus himself, or just to religious activity?



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Reflect:

- When you share your faith, do you emphasize church attendance or a relationship with Jesus?
- Are you going through religious motions, or are you experiencing genuine transformation?

Pray: "Lord, keep me from substituting religious activity for genuine relationship with you. Help me point others to you, not just to church. Transform my heart, not just my behavior. Amen."

Day 5: Jesus Is the Son of God

Read: John 5:17-18

The religious leaders understood exactly what Jesus was claiming: "My Father is working until now, and I am working." Jesus wasn't just a good teacher or a miracle worker—He claimed to be equal with God.

This is the central question of Christianity: Who is Jesus? If He's just a wise man, we can take or leave His teachings. If He's just a prophet, we can appreciate His insights. But if He is the Son of God—truly God in human flesh—then everything changes.

Jesus didn't come just to make sick people well or to teach moral lessons. He came to offer eternal healing, to bridge the gap between humanity and God, to take the penalty for our sins, and to give us new life that lasts forever.

The man at Bethesda was healed physically, but we don't know if he ever truly believed in Jesus as the Son of God. He went and reported Jesus to the authorities. He experienced the miracle but may have missed the Messiah.

Don't miss Jesus. He's not just someone who can improve your life—He's the One who can save your soul.

Reflect:

- Do you truly believe Jesus is the Son of God, or just a good teacher?
- Has the transforming power of Jesus been evident in your life?



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Pray: "Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God. You are not just a miracle worker but my Savior and Lord. Transform my life so completely that others can see your power at work in me. I surrender everything to you. Amen."

The Seasoned Salt You've Been Looking For

Have you ever searched everywhere for something that was right in front of you the whole time?

I have a love-hate relationship with Lowry's seasoned salt. Every fall, I make this family Chex mix recipe that requires it, but I can never find it in the store. I'll search the spice aisle up and down, left and right, convinced they've moved it or run out. I've even called my wife in desperation: "It's not here!"

Inevitably, someone else walks up, reaches right in front of me, and pulls it off the shelf. It was there the entire time. I just couldn't see it.

Missing What's Right in Front of Us

This is exactly what happens in John 5 with the man at the Pool of Bethesda. Jesus—the source of all healing, the Savior of the world, God himself in human flesh—is standing right in front of him. But the man can't see it. He's so focused on the pool, the superstition, the system he's always known, that he nearly misses the miracle standing before him.

For 38 years, this man had been sick. Thirty-eight years of waiting, hoping, trying to get into the pool when the waters stirred. Thirty-eight years of disappointment as someone else always got there first. Thirty-eight years of the same routine, the same struggle, the same brokenness.

And then Jesus walks up and asks a simple question: "Do you want to be healed?"

The Question That Changes Everything

It seems like an obvious question. Of course he wants to be healed! Why else would he be lying by a healing pool for nearly four decades? But Jesus asks anyway, because sometimes we get so comfortable with our brokenness that we stop believing change is possible.



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The man responds with excuses: "I have no one to help me into the pool. While I'm trying to get there, someone else steps in ahead of me." He's explaining why healing hasn't happened, why his situation is different, why it's not his fault.

But Jesus cuts through all of it with laser-focused clarity: "Get up, take up your bed and walk."

And immediately, the man was healed.

What We're Really Searching For

Here's what strikes me about this story: the man was looking for healing in a pool of water based on superstition, when the source of all healing was standing right in front of him.

How often do we do the same thing?

We search for fulfillment in our careers, thinking, "If I just get that promotion, then I'll be satisfied." We look for security in our bank accounts, believing, "If I just save enough, then I'll have peace." We seek validation in relationships, hoping, "If someone just loves me the right way, then I'll be whole."

We're searching everywhere—trying every pool, every system, every solution—while Jesus stands right in front of us, offering exactly what we need.

Three Questions for Your Journey

As I prepared this message, three questions kept coming to mind. I believe they're essential for anyone who wants to help others discover Jesus—and for anyone who needs to discover Him themselves.

1. Do you have the right compassion?

Jesus saw one man in a crowd of sick people. He didn't heal everyone that day. He focused on the one. This tells us something profound: every single person matters to Jesus. You're not just a face in the crowd. You're not just a number. Jesus sees you individually, knows your story, and cares about your specific pain.



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The question for us: Who is the "one in the crowd" that God is directing you toward? Who in your life needs to know that Jesus sees them, knows them, and loves them exactly as they are?

2. Do you have the right clarity?

The man at Bethesda was focused on a religious system—the pool, the superstition, the routine. Jesus redirected him: "I am what you need. Not the pool. Not the system. Me."

We can make the same mistake today. We invite people to church instead of to Jesus. We point them to programs instead of to a Person. We emphasize religious activity instead of genuine relationship.

Church is good. Community matters. Biblical practices are important. But none of these things save us—only Jesus does.

The question for us: Are you pointing people to Jesus himself, or just to religious activity?

3. Do you have the right Christology?

This is where the story takes a dramatic turn. After healing the man, Jesus makes a shocking claim: "My Father is working until now, and I am working." The religious leaders understood exactly what He meant—Jesus was claiming to be equal with God.

This is why they wanted to kill Him. Not just because He healed on the Sabbath, but because He claimed to be the Son of God.

Jesus isn't just a good teacher. He's not just a miracle worker or a moral example. He is God in human flesh, offering not just physical healing but eternal salvation.

The question for us: Do you truly believe Jesus is the Son of God? And does your life show the transforming power of that belief?

The Seasoning Your Life Needs

I joked at the beginning about Lowry's seasoned salt, but there's a better seasoning available—not Lowry's, but "Lordies." Jesus, the Lord of all, wants to season every aspect of your life with His presence, His power, and His purpose.



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But here's the thing: He's already right in front of you. You don't have to search high and low. You don't have to wait for the perfect moment or the right circumstances. You don't have to get your life together first.

Jesus is asking you the same question He asked that man 2,000 years ago: "Do you want to be healed?"

Not just physically. Not just emotionally. But completely, eternally, transformed from the inside out.

Stop Going Through the Motions

After Jesus healed the man, He found him later in the temple and said something striking: "See, you are well. Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

The man had been healed, but he was falling back into his old routine—going to the temple, going through the religious motions, doing what he'd always done. Jesus essentially said, "I didn't heal you just so you could go back to your old life. I healed you so you could live differently."

This is the danger for all of us. We can experience Jesus, receive His grace, know His truth—and then just go back to business as usual. Same habits. Same priorities. Same lifestyle. Nothing really changes.

But genuine encounter with Jesus should transform everything. The way we speak. The way we treat people. The way we spend our time and money. The way we respond to difficulty. The way we love our families. The way we do our jobs.

If Jesus is truly the Lord of your life, it should be evident in how you live.

The Man Who Missed the Messiah

Here's the tragic end to the story: after Jesus warned him to stop sinning, the man went and reported Jesus to the Jewish authorities. He experienced the miracle but may have missed the Messiah.

He was healed physically but possibly never healed spiritually. He got what he wanted—the ability to walk—but may have missed what he truly needed—a relationship with the Savior.

Don't make the same mistake.



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Jesus isn't just offering to improve your circumstances. He's offering to save your soul. He's not just trying to make your life a little better. He's offering you eternal life, complete forgiveness, total transformation, and a relationship with God himself.

He's Right There

Whatever you're searching for today—peace, purpose, healing, hope, forgiveness, meaning—Jesus is right there in front of you. You don't have to wait for the waters to stir. You don't have to compete with others to get there first. You don't have to earn it or deserve it or clean yourself up first.

Jesus sees you in the crowd. He knows how long you've been struggling. He's asking you directly: "Do you want to be healed?"

The answer isn't found in a pool, a program, or a religious system. The answer is a Person—Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross to take the penalty for your sins and rose again to give you new life.

He's been there all along, right in front of you. The question is: will you finally see Him?