

Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - **Episode 13** - John 5: 1-18 - *Healing at the Pool*

I. 38 Years of Failure

- A. Why do you think Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be made well?"
- B. Have you ever been in a place where, part of you complains about the way life is, but part of you is scared of what changes in life might bring?
- C. Have you ever had a plan in which you kept hoping God would jump on board, only to realize that God was doing something so much better without your knowledge? How hard was it to let go of your plan and accept God's way?

II. Sabbath

- A. Genesis 2: 1-3 says, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation."
 - 1. Why do you think that God, who is all powerful, rested on Sabbath?
 - 2. What does that model for the created order?
 - 3. Our culture has moved away from a day of rest. When Sabbath is taken from you, how does it affect your life? How have you chosen to honor Sabbath?
- B. Sabbath is a means of connecting to God, a life-giving day. Why do you think God chose it to heal this man by the pool? How did Jesus give life to him on the Sabbath?
- C. Mark 2: 27-28 (The Message) says, "Then Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made to serve us; we weren't made to serve the Sabbath. The Son of Man is no lackey to the Sabbath. He's in charge!"
 - 1. Have you ever experienced religion bringing rigidity rather than life giving freedom?

2. Have you ever seen a person be freed from fear of the law as they discovered grace for the first time?

D. To protect their theological worldview, the religious leaders said that no healing (work) could be done on the Sabbath and then had to run in circles to try to prove that a fact was incorrect - trying to not admit the obvious.

1. Have you ever had to deal with someone who had to construct alternate realities to deny the truth?

2. What strategies have helped you cope with them?

III. Testimony of the Father

A. When asked for a reference to bolster his authority, Jesus referred to both Moses and to the Father. Why would this have infuriated the religious leaders?

B. If the Father were testifying on your behalf, what would God say?