

Miracles and the Messiah- Miracle 3- John 5:1-15

- Quick review of lesson from last week and purpose of this series.
- With John's purpose being to prove that Jesus is God. How did healing a man's son from a distance prove Jesus was God?
- I thought I'd start today by talking about some laws you may or may not have known that our state has.
 - It is illegal to hunt any animal except racoons on a Sunday.
 - Anyone here have a mule? If so don't wash it on the sidewalk, you'll get arrested.
 - It is illegal to spit on a seagull.
 - It is illegal to tickle a woman here, but men we're fine to be tickled.
 - In Richmond it is illegal to flip a coin in a restaurant to determine who should pay for coffee.
 - It is illegal to sell lettuce on a Sunday.
 - It is illegal to use a bathtub in your home.
- These are weird laws that we don't understand. At one time they had a valid point but now they are outdated, or we don't understand their purpose.
- In today's miracle we're going to see Jesus do something on a day in which the Jews believed they weren't supposed to do anything at all. The sabbath day. But we're going to see they had a misunderstanding of what the sabbath was for.
- As we get into the lesson today consider the following two questions:
 - **How does this miracle prove that Jesus is God?**
 - **Why did Jesus perform the miracle on the sabbath? Was there a purpose for it?**
- John 5:1-15
- **So what happened in this story? What did Jesus do?**
- Retell story-
 - John tells us that after the story we studied last week there was a feast or festival in Jerusalem. Jesus and His disciples were there.
 - In Jerusalem there was a pool called the pool of Bethesda.

- This pool was a place where sick people, lame people etc. would go seeking to be healed.
 - They believed that an Angel moved the water and whoever got into the water first when it moved would be healed.
 - So apparently Jesus and His disciples were near this pool and they saw a certain man who had some kind of infirmity for 38 years.
 - **This is hard for a lot of us in this room to fathom, because for most of us in this room that time frame would be our whole lives.**
 - Jesus asks the man “Don’t you want to be healed.” It seems the man may have been unable to walk because he said he needed someone to place him in the pool.
 - Jesus then says to Him take up your bed and walk. Take notice of something that I just really thought about today-Jesus spoke. He didn’t touch the man, He didn’t pick Him up. He said get up and take your matt and walk.
 - The man was healed. But then John makes it a point to say that the day this occurs is the sabbath.
 - **What is the sabbath?**
 - Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 23:3
 - The Sabbath was a day set aside for rest and worship
 - Then John says the Jews saw this man was healed and it caused a stir. (When John says the Jews he is referencing the ruling class-Priests, Pharisees, Sadducees etc.)
 - They did not like that the man had been healed on the Sabbath.
 - **Why do you think they were upset that he was healed on the sabbath? Why was this important?**
 - Keeping the Sabbath, resting and worshiping were what the day was for. You were not to work. They were strict about it. There was a limited amount of miles you could walk before you were considered to have worked.
 - Healing on the sabbath would have been considered work.
- We talked about outdated laws but here in the US we had Sabbath laws known as Blue Laws. These laws were in place to make sure people rested and worshiped on a Sunday. Up until recently some of these laws were in place. They were there to ensure that rest and worship happened but the at times it was restricting and missed the point of the sabbath...much like the Jews in Jesus day.
 - I love to read. I could spend so much time reading history books, historical fiction, books written about Biblical history and things like that. There are many genres I

love. In High school I was in honors english and every summer I had a reading list that I had to complete before school started in the fall. Now I was the kid who would take books to restaurants and read them there, I'd read in the car, I read everywhere, but do you think I ever finished the summer reading lists in high school? No! Because I hated being forced to do something I enjoy. When I was told I had to read, the last thing I wanted to do was read.

- **What is the Sabbath actually for?**
 - Biblical Sabbath is a 24 hour block of time in which we stop work, enjoy rest, practice delight, and contemplate/spend time with God.
 - Not meant to be restrictive but a day of rest and delight. (Another illustration is naps as a kid vs adults).

- **Who created the Sabbath?**
 - John 1 tells us that Jesus(the Word) is the creator. Which means He is the one who rested on the first Sabbath day.
 - So then, the creator of the Sabbath is the one who healed on the Sabbath.

- **Why do you think Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath?**
 - Jesus healed on the Sabbath day to show that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. God. Mark 2:27-28
 - Also, that people, loving our neighbor is the second most important Commandment, and that caring for others isn't necessarily work.
 - Coworker Illustration from LU- Messianic Jew who followed the eating laws but ate bacon to comfort a lady who felt ministered to by cooking for others. Lady had lost a loved one and needed comforting. My Friend said it was better for her to be unclean for a short period of time to show God's love to someone than to obey the letter of the law.

- **How does this miracle prove Jesus is God?**
 - Jesus is God because He is Lord of the Sabbath.

Take away from this lesson-

Jesus healed on the sabbath to show that He wasn't just a prophet through whom God was doing miracles, but that He was God come to earth because He was the creator of the sabbath and the Lord of the sabbath.