



JOHN CHAPTER 5

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. - Jn 5:8.

In John chapter 5 Jesus not only proves that he is God but he is the God of the Impossible when he asks a man who has been paralyzed for 38 years to pick up his bed and walk. The man simply did as Jesus asked and was healed for his faith. He trusted Jesus at his word and executed the command. Faith happens when we trust God at his word with no other evidence. This paralytic trusted and obeyed with no idea who this man was asking him to pick up his mat. How many of us can say the same? When God asks us to do the impossible, or even what we feel is impossible, do we have the same faith? Do we trust him regardless of the evidence?

On another note, part of Jesus' coming in human flesh (other than to be the perfect sacrifice for sin) was to correct a grievous misunderstanding of God's word. In what we can assume was good intent, the religious elite had created an oral tradition or law that would help them 'live' the given law. They inflicted a man-made understanding of God's law on the community of Israel, in doing so, they established a false religious system far from the heart of God. Jesus healed this man on the sabbath in order to challenge the status quo and open the hearts and minds of the people to seek God before all else. That meant seeking God's heart before adhering to a man-made moral and religious law.

Read John 5:1-18 with your group. How do you see Jesus challenging the thought process of the peasant and Pharisees alike?

Discussion Questions

1. God has proven over and over again that he is the God of the Impossible! What impossible things have you seen him do in your life?
2. From the beginning of time and the Garden of Eden. The command was simple: Trust and obey. How does Genesis 3 demonstrate distrust of God and the natural human condition?
3. When has God asked you to simply trust him? What impossible task has he shown you was possible with Him? When have you been willing to "pick up your mat and walk, knowing that it has been impossible for you your entire life?
4. In verse 14, Jesus spoke of something worse that would happen to the healed man if he had kept living in sin. Was this spiritual, physical or both? What are the natural consequences of sin? How is the Ten Commandments like body armor protecting us from those consequences?
5. Jesus enraged the Jews by making himself equal to God. How was this the 'turning point' that led to the cross? In your opinion, Is Jesus a man, God, or both? Why or why not?