

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Chris discusses the story from John 5 about Jesus healing the man at the Pool of Bethesda who had been sick for 38 years. The message contrasts the world's way of healing (represented by the pool) with Jesus' way - instead of the man having to get to the water, the Living Water (Jesus) came to him. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus doesn't just offer temporary relief but complete transformation, making us whole rather than just making us feel better temporarily.

The sermon highlights how Jesus seeks out the broken and desperate, going to unpleasant places to find those who need healing most. It contrasts religious ritual with the reality of relationship with Christ, noting how religious leaders criticized the healed man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath. The message concludes with the powerful truth that Jesus still heals today, and invites listeners to allow Jesus to make them whole, regardless of how long they've been suffering.

# Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds. Just as You came to the man at Bethesda, we ask that You would come to each of us today. Lord, help us to be receptive to Your living water flowing into our lives. Remove any excuses we might make and help us to truly desire to be made whole. Guide our discussion, open our understanding, and help us to apply these truths to our lives. May we leave this group today transformed by Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.

# Ice Breaker

If you could instantly be healed of one physical ailment or discomfort you currently have (big or small), what would it be?

# Key Verses

- John 5:6
- John 5:8-9
- John 4:29
- John 1:29

# Questions

- The man at the pool had been sick for 38 years. What areas in your life have you been struggling with for a long time that you need Jesus to heal?
- When Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be made whole, the man gave an excuse. What excuses do we often make that prevent us from experiencing God's healing and transformation?
- The sermon points out that Jesus didn't just offer the man relief but transformation. What's the difference between wanting to feel better temporarily versus wanting to be made whole?
- How has God used your past struggles or pain as a testimony to help others?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that "when you can't get to the water, the water comes to you." Share a time when God came to you in a situation where you felt helpless.
- The religious leaders were upset that the healed man carried his bed on the Sabbath. How do religious rules sometimes get in the way of experiencing God's grace?
- The sermon mentions the little girl who brought an umbrella to the prayer meeting for rain. What would it look like for you to exercise that kind of faith in your current circumstances?
- Jesus told the healed man to "sin no more." How does physical healing relate to spiritual transformation in our lives?

## Life Application

This week, identify your "bed" - the thing that has kept you bound or the excuse you've been making that prevents you from experiencing God's wholeness. Write it down on a piece of paper. Then, in an act of faith like the little girl with her umbrella, physically pick up that paper and carry it with you as a reminder that Jesus has given you the power to rise up and walk in freedom. Each time you see or touch that paper, pray specifically about that issue and thank God that the Living Water has come to you. At the end of the week, destroy the paper as a symbol of leaving that burden behind.

## Key Takeaways

- When we can't get to the water, Jesus (the Living Water) comes to us where we are.
- Jesus doesn't just want to make us feel better temporarily; He wants to make us whole.
- The things that once held us captive can become testimonies of God's power and grace.
- True faith requires action - we must respond to Jesus' command to "rise, take up your bed, and walk."
- God is still in the healing business today - He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Living Water that comes to us when we cannot come to You. We are grateful that You see us in our brokenness and still choose to engage with us. Forgive us for the excuses we've made and the times we've settled for temporary relief instead of complete transformation. Help us to rise up, take up our beds, and walk in the freedom and wholeness You provide. Give us the courage to leave behind the things that have held us captive for so long. May we carry powerful testimonies of Your healing grace into a world that desperately needs living water. We pray this in Your mighty name, amen.