

Knowing Jesus Through His Mission

Opening Announcements

Opening Prayer

Q: What IS the "mission" of Jesus?

Q: WHY is He on THAT mission?

Q: WHO is the beneficiary of His mission?

Q: What is YOUR role in HIS mission?

Q: What does THAT look like?

Table Time: *at your table read and discuss the following...*

READ: John 5:1-17 "After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." ¹¹ But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Q: What strikes you as interesting/odd/confusing in this sign?

Q: What did you notice about this encounter?

Q: According to verse 10, what did the Jews believe was the "problem"?

Q: According to verse 11, what was the man's response?

Q: What's interesting about verse 13?

Q: What is Jesus' command to him in verse 14? What is the "worse" than being physically disabled?

Q: Does this mean that he was originally disabled because he had sinned "specifically" or was his disability because of sin "generally"?

Q: Why might that distinction be important? AND, how does the devil twist that to his advantage?

Q: Why do you think the man, goes to the Jews and tells them it was Jesus who healed him?

Q: What is the reason they were persecuting him?

Q: What is verse 17 about? Why is it offensive and gets Jesus in "trouble" with the Jews, but also, why does it point to A: Who He is? And B: What His mission is?

Big Group Debrief

READ: John 5:18 "This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."

Q: How is the Son, "equal" to the Father?

Q: When Jesus says "the Father is working until now and I am working" v. 17 above, even on the Sabbath (a day of rest), what is Jesus saying, claiming when He says and does this?

Q: How did the Jews misunderstand Jesus, the "Sabbath" and His mission?

Q: How does the Great Commission of Matthew 28: 19-20 inform OUR mission and how does it connect with THIS "sign"?