



WAYPOINTS, PART 3: JESUS PICKS A FIGHT

March 8, 2020

Pastor Brad Williams

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT(S):

John 5:1-15

SUMMARY

In the book of John we see seven miracles highlighted. John does this to have us see clearly who Jesus is, believe in him, and by believing in him have real life. Each miracle shows us three things: who Jesus is not, who Jesus is, and what the miracle has to do with us. This third miracle is the most public so far and shows even more Jesus breaking free from what the Law had become and into relationship with God.

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath and tells him to pick up his mat and walk. It was intentional that Jesus told him to pick up his mat, because that was illegal on the Sabbath according to the Pharisees. In doing this Jesus shows that he is most concerned with the hearts of his people not strictly following the Law. Jesus wants our hearts to be in line with God and when that happens our behavior will follow, not the other way around.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you ever worked with the homeless or a people group that is outcast?
What was that like?
2. What rule of society or law do you see broken often?
Are there any rules or laws you were caught breaking?
3. Have you witnessed a miracle of healing?
4. Have you climbed a mountain or high place?
How did your perspective change from the hike/journey to the top?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you notice about the setting in John 5:1-5?
2. How do you think the man felt when Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed?
3. What can you tell from the man's response?
4. The Jewish leaders came to the man in John 5:10-12,
what things stand out in their conversation?
5. What was Jesus' response when he found the man again?
Do you find this strange? If so, why?

cont.

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Brad talked about the neighborhood that this miracle happened in as being a place of the most expendable of Jerusalem. Is there a place or people group in our society that is similar?
2. Do you think the people who are in that area or people group in our society feel like the man in John 5:7? How might they feel in our culture?
3. How do you think those people would react if you asked them if they wanted out of their circumstances or situation?
4. What would happen in our society if a major miracle occurred? Would people believe or would they explain it away? What type of reaction do you think would occur to a public miracle?
5. The Jewish leaders overlooked the miracle and accused the man of doing something wrong. Are there people in our society who would overlook a miracle and do something similar?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Have you ever felt like the man at the pool? Stuck, helpless, hopeless?
2. In a time of hopelessness, how would you react if someone asked you if you wanted out of the situation? Would that give you hope?
3. If God asked you if you want to be healed or brought out of a rough situation, would you respond with a lack of hope or would you trust in him? What might be difficult about trusting him?
4. Have you given lip service to Jesus? Has there been a moment when Jesus' message has hit your heart and your lip service has turned to a real relationship with him?
5. Have you struggled with wanting to behave the "right" way to try to gain God's love and grace? How does it make you feel to hear that Jesus wants your heart without expectations?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Where are you lacking hope in your life? How can the group be praying for you in this?
2. What area of your life do you need to focus on Jesus more? Where are you striving to behave the "right" way rather than aligning your heart to God?
3. Are you struggling to not judge others? In what ways can you work on this or change this week?

Thanks to Charissa Burns and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes on the following page.

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John's reason for miracles - that would see Jesus clearly, believer in Him, and by believing in Him have life.

Will see 3 things in each sign/miracle

- (1) Who Jesus is NOT (2) Who Jesus is (3) What the miracle has to do with us.

John 5 The 3rd miracle → this one shows who Jesus wants us to be

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a Jewish festival makes sense as a Jew & a rabbi.

1st miracle was private
2nd miracle was a bit more public

both in Cana
66 miles from Jerusalem

This miracle happens in a large public festival.

Jesus is leading us somewhere with how the miracles are growing/ramping up in public view.

DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?

Jesus is drawing us in and bringing us up close.

→ He is bringing us to a higher, closer place with him.

The neighborhood Jesus went to was considered an "expendable" neighborhood because it was on the outskirts... it would be the first to be attacked.

There is the pool of Bethesda here. The people who were around this pool were considered unclean. A man was there for 38 years & couldn't walk.

There was a legend that if the water stirred it was an angel and you could be healed.

Jesus asks this man if he wants to be well. The man says "I cannot get into the pool, I have no one to help me get into the pool."

■ JESUS SAYS "GET UP! PICK UP YOUR MAT AND WALK." ■ AMAZING.

But Jewish leaders stop the man because it was the Sabbath and it was illegal to carry your mat on the Sabbath.

→ the man says that the man who made me I was well said to pick up my mat and walk. ↓

Jesus knew what he was doing... It was intentional!

Later Jesus found the man and told him to stop sinning.

→ then man goes & tells the Jewish leaders who (healed him).

So since Jesus was healing on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him

The Maccabeans rose up & were corrupt & going against God. Some Jews protested & became the Pharisees - started good but they went "law" crazy. They wanted to see God's presence take over again but they made it legalistic, hoops to jump through. → like you can't pick up mat on the Sabbath even if you've just been healed.

Jesus wants hearts aligned with GOD not behavior that is aligned with expectations

Jesus is truly concerned about the heart! Not about "lip" service. It's about the INSIDE

There is a way that leads to real life & it is found in Jesus!