

SEVEN

INTRODUCTION

Part 3 - Healing the Paralytic at Bethesda

One of Jesus' closest friends, John, witnessed Jesus perform dozens, if not hundreds, of miracles. When he penned the Gospel of John, he only chose seven of them to highlight who Jesus was (and is!) and the difference he can make in our lives.

Join us for this new series as we focus on how amazing Jesus is, and consider what he is capable of in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been let down because you believed a particular product would work because of its "claims," but it didn't work as you had hoped? What happened?
2. Read John 5:1-15. Scholars agree that the bracketed text in verses 3-4 was not in the original Greek document from which the Gospel of John was translated. In other words, someone added this later to explain a superstitious belief many had concerning the Pool of Bethesda. In what ways are people superstitious today? Why do you think people are drawn to superstitious beliefs?
3. Are there any ways in which you are superstitious? What might help break superstition in your life?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" Why do you think the man responded the way he did?
5. Jesus implied that this man's condition had to do with some personal sin. How do we know that not all sickness is related to sin in our lives?
6. Read John 5:16-18. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? Why do you think Jesus said what he did?
7. What lessons do you think we should take from this story? How can we keep from trusting the wrong things? How can we learn to trust Christ more with our lives?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

The paralytic man at Bethesda was healed because who Jesus was and is—God. Too often we put our trust in the wrong things. God wants us to trust Him fully. He and His Son the Lord Jesus are to be the object of our trust.

We should come before the throne of God our Father in the name of His Son Jesus. Although He will not always grant our requests, know he alone is able. He loves us and He loves when we place our trust in Him. If we don't get what we ask, we trust He knows what He is doing.

KEY VERSES

John 5:1-18