



Message 4 – The Man at Bethesda

Warm-up

What is your morning routine? Is there something you should add or take away to make it more effective? Do you keep the routine because it is an effective way to start your day or do you keep it because you are comfortable with it?

Overview

We all come to a point in life where we are desperate and in need of God. Sometimes the miracle we are in need of takes longer than we would hope. Jesus can and wants to meet us and touch our life and situations. We will take a closer look at how our response to those situations is often the preface to the miracle God is wanting to give birth to in our life.

Word and Application

Today we will study the fourth message in our series, entitled *One to One: Encounters With Jesus*. Together, we will discuss and learn from, The Man at Bethesda. Jesus encountered this man who went through excruciating pain and was lame most of his life. He was a man in need of a miracle. He was like many of us, in need of a touch from God in a critical area of our life. This man had been sick for 38 years!

1. What is your struggle?

Read John 5:1-9.

The people who were sitting around the pool of Bethesda were not just physically ill--many were spiritually ill. They were just waiting for the healing and not doing much else about it. Is there something that is paralyzing you? What area in your life do you desperately want to experience freedom?

2. Do you want to be made well?

Read John 5:6, Exodus 15:26, John 5:7

The big question Jesus asked the man was if he really wanted to be made well. Jesus already knew the answer He was asking so the man would finally take ownership of the situation. Is there an area of your life you are giving God 50% instead of the 100% we need to give Him?

Two Reasons People Do Not Change:

- We grow comfortable with our issues.
- We do not have an accurate picture of God.

Describe your view of God. How has it changed over the years?

How big is your God?

Read Psalm 33:6-7&9.

When God spoke the earth into existence with His voice, so many miracles took place. There are so many mysteries in creation that leave scientists stumped. What are some of the changes in creation that you see in the spring? Isn't the mere changing of seasons and all the intricacies of it miracles? Isn't it proof of how big God is? Creation alone shows us His Majesty and Glory. We can fully trust in the Word of God for everything in life because we literally wake up *every* morning and stand on His spoken Word. The ground we put our feet to everyday--He spoke into being. It is there day after day. It is a reminder to us how faithful He is.

Maybe you were told you would have a certain condition the rest of your life? BUT GOD! Maybe you've been waiting for this certain job for years and about to give up. BUT GOD! Maybe you are in a marriage that you feel will never get better. BUT GOD! Maybe you feel as though you will never be able to be "good enough" to have a relationship with Jesus. BUT GOD! What is the biggest miracle you are needing in your life right now? Think bigger than you ever have because your God is bigger than anything you are facing right now!

What is God telling you to do?

Read John 5:8-9 & John 10:27.

What are the action words in these verses? *Obedience precedes the miraculous.* This is a common theme we see throughout Scripture. Some miracles happen instantly, some happen over time. In either case, a miracle is when God touches you with the supernatural and does what you can't do on your own. It is important to know that in either case, the key is in how you answer the question: *What is God telling me to do?*

- What are you doing in your daily routine to sharpen your hearing so you are able to intently listen to God's voice?
- Discuss as a group practical ways to learn how to hear God's voice.

Life Challenge

- What Scripture impacted you today that encourages you to step out of your comfort zone and trust God for bigger than ever before?
- Who can you share what you learned today with to build their life?

Prayer

Lord, Thank you for being bigger than my greatest difficulty I can ever face. Thank You for Your Word that I can fully trust every day of my life. Teach me how to hear your voice and what area I need to be obedient in so I can have a closer relationship with You. Pray for the specific needs of the group.