**BCM Bible Study – March 21 & 22, 2018**

**Sign #3: The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-29)**

Recap: We’re studying the 7 miracles (although we’re calling them signs as John does) in the book of John that all serve to make a point about the person and character of Jesus to both a Jewish and Gentile audience. We’ve already seen Jesus turn water into wine and then heal an official’s son without even seeing him.

**Read: John 5:1-9a (end of paragraph)**

*Note: v. 4 is missing from most bible translations because it does not appear in the earliest manuscripts that we have of scripture. Although it seems to fit with v. 7, we can’t ultimately treat it as scripture.*

* What stands out to you as unique about this miracle so far?
* How does the “invalid” man answer Jesus’ question in v.7? Does he answer it at all?
* Before reading on – why do you think Jesus healed this man lying by the pool? (he didn’t ask for it, no mention of faith, etc.)
  + In v. 6, an amazing claim is made about Jesus – Jesus knew the condition of the man, and knew that he had been sick for 38 years. Where you are in your life right now, how does it comfort you to know that Jesus knew this man intimately and then healed him without even being asked (according to any hardship you may be going through)?
  + “I counted at least nine times in the gospels where it says Jesus was moved with compassion or pity. So not only does Jesus know you perfectly, but he is easily moved by the misery you feel. His therapies are not always what we want. But that’s not owing to his heartlessness. He is not heartless. He is compassionate to us in our misery. He is a sympathetic High Priest for those who will trust him.” – John Piper
* Jesus always extends an open invitation for us to be healed, to be free from the bondage of sin. He always extends the question to us; *do you want to be healed?* What are some answers or complaints that we give him instead of yes?

**Read John 5:9b-18**

*Healing*

* Have your thoughts about why Jesus healed this man changed at all? How?
* Why do you think Jesus left the man so quickly once healing him? What does Jesus say to the man once he finds him again in the temple?
  + What do you think it means?
  + “In other words: ‘I have healed you that you may be holy, that you may stop doing evil, and that you may not rise to the resurrection of judgment, but to the resurrection of life. I have pointed you to myself as a life-giver. I heal in more ways than one. Don’t turn from me to a life of sin.’”
* As Christians, we know that we’ve been healed, not just for ourselves, but for a purpose. We too, are given the charge “sin no more”. The grace of God ought to lead us to desire this kind of life.
  + What does it look like to pursue a life of “sin no more”?
  + For those of us that struggle to pursue a life of holiness, what are some things we can do to drink deeply the grace of God and to soak in and appreciate what He has done for us?

*Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath*

* Read Exodus 31:12-17 to get an idea about resting on the Sabbath (or just recap)
* What is Jesus communicating to the world by healing a man on the Sabbath?
* What was Jesus’ response to the Pharisee’s questioning him about healing on the Sabbath?
  + What do you think his response means?
    - “Jesus did not try and explain that He had not truly worked on the Sabbath. Instead, He boldly explained to the religious leaders that His Father worked on the Sabbath, and therefore Jesus the Son also worked on the Sabbath.” – David Guzik
* Ultimately, why did the religious leaders want to persecute Jesus (which would ultimately lead to his death) – check out v. 18?
* What are some ways that we may get stuck on laws and regulations rather than seeing Jesus for who He truly is?

**Read John 5:19-29**

* Based on these verses, what are some specifics in Jesus’ relationship to the Father? (v. 19, v. 20, v. 22)
* Look at v. 23. What are the implications for “whoever does not honor the son, does not honor the father?”
* V. 24 is striking. Read it together as a group aloud three times. Ask someone in the group to rephrase the meaning of this verse. What stands out to you about this verse?
  + John Piper points out two main points about this verse:
    - “1) We not only *will* have eternal life, but we *already* have it, and 2) we not only *will* not come into the judgment of condemnation, but have *already* passed through judgment and are safe on the other side. Jesus has become that judgment for us. When we are united to him by faith, his death becomes our death, and his crucifixion our crucifixion, and his curse on the cross our curse on the cross, and his resurrection our resurrection. We have *already* “passed from death to life”! This is glorious news beyond all words. Exult in this. Know this about yourself as a believer. Be made radically courageous by this.”
      * Ask for reactions to the quote
  + With Easter coming up, how can we honor the Father and worship more fully in light of this verse and the truth reiterated by Piper?

**Conclusion:**

1. What is Jesus telling us about Himself through this sign?
2. What do we learn about God the Father?

Resources: ESV Study Bible, Desiringgod.org (John Piper on John 5), Enduringword.com (David Guzik Commentary), Abilene Christian University Bible Study