

John 5 – Sermon 2

Welcome to CHC. My name is Bobby and if we haven't met yet, I would love that opportunity right after this service.

We are super grateful for you being here today. Your presence matters.

Easter is right around the corner...1 week from today. Invite someone to join you!

Today is a bit of a continuation of last week. (Reminder, you can always go to our website and get caught up on any sermons you miss)

A quick recap of last week: John 5.1-9

Jesus has called his disciples...the guys who were going to be closest to Him. He is displaying his power, love, and mercy to many people along the way.

He finds himself standing at a swimming pool called Bethesda. At this pool, many people who are disabled are laying around.

Jesus interacts with this one man who had been there for 38 years....and Jesus asks this loaded question: Do you want to get well? It's a loaded questions because Jesus was asking something much deeper.

Are you ready for a totally new life. **When Jesus is on the scene, new things happen.**

The man blames others. Jesus doesn't let him sit in his excuse. Jesus tells him to "get up." The man gets up and starts walking.

This is where we are going to pick back up today...Stand with me in honor of the reading of God's Word.

John 5.9–14 | ⁹Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk. Now that day was the Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat." ¹¹ He replied, "The man who made me well told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² "Who is this man who told you, 'Pick up your mat and walk'?" they asked. ¹³ But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. ¹⁴ After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you."

Pray

The story has several twists and turns but has so many great insights for us today.

One thing I want to note is the location all of this took place. **(Show map picture)**

This pool was right outside of the entrance to the church. If anyone who should have cared...it was the people going into the temple to worship God.

For 38 years...he sat outside the front door of the church, and no one saw him.

He had no one to count on in his time of need. He didn't have 1 meaningful relationship in his life. What a discouraging thought.

We can't be too busy celebrating the fact that we know Jesus and he loves us and not focus our attention out there.

We can say we care all we want...but there comes a time we have to prove it. Here is the question I want you to lock in on today... **Do I see people like Jesus sees people?**

Look at the compassion of Jesus. Jesus chooses to go to the pool where all the sick people are hanging out. He wasn't just walking by...it was His choice to go in.

The same way He went to Samaria to see the woman at the well...the same way he went to heal the official's son in Galilee.

Jesus was all about serving people.

Rick Warren – “The real reason so many Christians are lonely is because they're sitting when they should be serving.” All around us is a world full of people who are lonely and waiting to be cared for. That elderly person who hasn't had a visit in two years. That teenager who is all messed up and wonders, “What am I going to do with my life?” That single adult who goes home every night to a lonely apartment. That widow who has just buried her husband. That employee who heads for the bar every night after work because there's nothing else to do.”

The world is full of people waiting to be loved. Stop saying, "I don't have any friends!" and start saying, "God, who can you use me to minister to? Who can I show your love to?"

Let's get a little practical for a second. I believe we can use the church as a training ground to prepare us and others.

You may not be ready to walk up to strangers and talk about Jesus and His love. So, you need to get some reps in how to do that. What better place than the local church?

For so many people the mindset in coming to church every week is this...Feed me preacher boy! Make it interesting, and funny, and not too long. Sing songs I like. And make sure everyone says hi to me. – This is a “Church is all about me mentality.”

Many don't set out to have that mindset, but that's the reality

God wants to use you. Here is a question I want you to go home and chew on this week.

What is standing in my way of God using me?

If you feel weak, limited, or not ready, you are the exact type of person God loves to use.

BTW...You can start training right now...Our kids and student's ministries aren't childcare.

We need Godly men and women seeing them. Loving them. Investing in them.

Men/Women, marriage, evangelism,

So, Jesus goes to where the broken people are and heals...and look what happens next.

Vs. 9-10 | ⁹Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk. Now that day was the Sabbath, ¹⁰and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.”

As soon as the man man walks in obedience to Jesus, he is questioned and accused.

Obedience invites opposition.

Other people aren't always going to understand or even like why you seem to be different.

Doing things for God may ruffle some feathers. Serving, giving, loving, abstaining,

etc...anything that sets you apart will cause others to notice.

“If nobody's pushing back, it might be because you're not pushing forward.”

What areas of life is God trying to show you that you need to take some steps of obedience?

I want to get super practical for a second, because I think this is the starting point.

Look at these areas and identify where you are pushing forward and where you are holding back. **(Put all 8 on 1 slide)**

1. Finances | Tithing, generosity, stewardship, getting out of debt.

2. Relationships | Forgiveness, reconciliation, setting boundaries, choosing godly friendships.

3. Marriage/Family | Leading spiritually at home, intentional time with spouse/kids, prayer together.

4. Career/Calling | Saying yes to a calling, starting something new, leaving what's comfortable.

5. Personal Holiness | Breaking a habit, repentance, purity, cutting off access to temptation.

6. Time Management | Prioritizing God's Word, Sabbath rest, investing in what truly matters.

7. Church Involvement | Serving, joining a group, committing to a local body.

8. Faith Steps | Trusting God in uncertainty, sharing the gospel, obeying without all the answers.

If you are living in obedience in these places...you're likely going to feel and sense some opposition. And just something to note: The opposition doesn't always come from outside. Sometimes the opposition is from within.

Let's keep going. They tell him he shouldn't be doing this, and the man responds...

Vs. 11-13 | ¹¹ He replied, "The man who made me well told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' ¹² "Who is this man who told you, 'Pick up your mat and walk?'" they asked.

¹³ But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

He received his healing, but he didn't know the healer. Church...**Get to know the Healer**

We can so easily get the blessing or the healing. We can receive the gift and miss the giver.

Proverbs 2.4-5 | If you look for it as for silver... then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Knowing God comes through the pursuit of wisdom and His Word. It's not about the blessings; it's about knowing Him better.

The man doesn't even know its Jesus...then look what happens. **Vs. 14 | ¹⁴ After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you."**

I love the richness of this passage...2 pieces of Gold:

Jesus knows where to find us.

Even when the man didn't come back to Jesus, Jesus came to him. Jesus finds us in our brokenness.

Not once, but twice did Jesus show up for this guy. Why? Because that's who He is. That's what He does.

He knows your sin, struggle, hurts, your questions...and yet He is still pursuing you. Why? Because He wants you to know Him. He wants you to experience His goodness, love, and mercy.

The second piece of Gold: **Christ pursues us—not just to heal, but to call us to holiness.**

Vs. 14 | ¹⁴After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you.”

This isn't something that we talk about a lot. We think its unattainable or maybe some have given it a bad name. “Holy Rollers” – “Holier than thou”

He is calling us to holiness. **1 Peter 1.16 | Be holy, because I am holy.** God doesn't ask us to be something He's not.

Holiness reflects His character.

Holiness sets us apart.

Holiness isn't about being weird—it's about being different for a purpose.

Holiness clears the junk that clogs the relationship.

The more we walk in holiness, the more clearly, we hear His voice.

Response:

I know I've given you a lot today...I pray the Lord is speaking to your heart and you are ready to take some action.

Maybe today, you relate to the crippled man. Jesus sees you! The crowd saw a crippled man. Jesus saw someone worth healing. Call out to Him today.

Is God calling you to something and you're not being obedient? Serving? Giving? Personal Holiness? Next step of faith? – I know what it's not...stay the same. No growth.

Don't live your life with tunnel vision on just your life...Open your eyes to the people around you.

May we be a church that doesn't just walk by.