

INTRO

- If there's one miracle of Jesus you could've witnessed, which one would it be and why?

This series focuses on the 7 miraculous signs of Jesus John records, so that we may KNOW Jesus more fully, TRUST him more deeply, and experience LIFE through him (Jn 20:30-31).

READ

John 5:1-17

Qu: anything stand out to you out from the text?

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this passage, John reveals more of who Jesus is and his character in his interaction both with the lame man and the Jewish authorities.

JESUS COMES TO US WITH GRACE (vv1-9)

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus heads straight for the Pool of Bethesda where there are many sick and paralyzed people, and focuses on one particular man who's been lame for 38yrs! He asks the man if he wants to get well, which seems a peculiar thing to ask of a sick person. Despite the man's helpless and hopeless response, Jesus demonstrates his power by instantaneously healing him.

Qu: Based upon this encounter, what do you learn about Jesus? How does this challenge/encourage you?

JESUS COMES TO US WITH TRUTH (vv9-17)

The miraculous healing sign is only half the story. The real tension is that all this took place on the Sabbath. By Jesus' day, hundreds of manmade laws had been added to keep the Sabbath holy, but had become complicated, burdensome and distorted God's heart behind the Sabbath law. So much so, the Jewish authorities are more concerned with this healed

man breaking the law than celebrating his healing! Jesus exposes their hearts through his intentional action.

Qu: many don't enjoy conflict, but Jesus used conflict purposefully as an act of love. How can conflict be loving? When is it unloving?

Then, Jesus seeks out the healed man, and says something startling in v14: "See you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." The wellness/wholeness of this man must go deeper than just physical healing. Jesus addresses the core issue of his relationship with God, by addressing the sin in his life (we don't know the specifics). In other words, Jesus gave this man a new life by an act of sheer grace; in light of that, Jesus obligates the man to live in such a way that reflects that new life.

JESUS, FULL OF TRUTH & GRACE (Jn 1:17)

We need both grace *and* truth. We need to hear Jesus' offer: *do you want to be well?* And we need to hear Jesus' command: *go and sin no more.* We tend to receive and resist one more than the other, but both reflect God's love for us.

Qu: Practically, how can we demonstrate God's love to others through grace and through truth? What distorts God's love if we ignore either grace or truth?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Spend time praying in response to the final question.
- Pray that we would be a community that demonstrates God's love through grace and truth.