

2008 #7 Gospel of John –THE GREAT HEALER
John 4:43-5:15

Today John 4:43- we find Jesus coming back from Jerusalem to Cana,

Where he had turned the water in to wine.

Had he come back to visit the newly wed couple?

We don't know, but

⁴⁵When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. John 4:45a

It tells us why-

They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there. John 4:45b

Everyone likes to see a good show.

And Jesus had given them that with the Pharisees

Driven out the money changers, cattle, sheep and doves.

But it was more than that

Everyone likes to see a good miracle,

“Now, while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.” John 2:23-24

and followed him.

Now what about us this morning?

Have we come to church to deepen our faith,

Or to see the signs and wonders in the worship service?

Do you realize that people will spend more time examining the vegetables in the supermarket than they will ever spend scrutinizing their faith.

Americans will spend more on having their

Teeth, eyes, ears, hearts, and bodies examined

than they do their souls.

Author Max Lucado said;

“In the 1900's the average person living in the United States

Wanted 72 different things and considered 18 of them essential.

In 2008 the average person wants 500 things

and considers 100 of them essential.”

Edgar Stoesz writes:

Never have houses been so big,

Never Families been so small.

Never have Bridal parties been so elaborate,

Never have marriages been so short.

Never have wages been greater,

Never has indebtedness been higher.

Never have so many families waited for an adoption,

Never have so many pregnancies been terminated by abortion.

To sum it up:

Never have so many people believed in God

Never have so many been absent from Church.

It is a tragic reality that all these things in our lives,

will eventually wear out and cease to be,
 But our souls will go on forever,
 Either in heaven or in hell.
 And faith is the key to the fate of our souls.

So they followed Jesus.

Most out of curiosity
 But one man, out of a great need.
 He was a man of honor and reputation.

I. JESUS ENCOUNTERED THE ROYAL OFFICIAL.

There was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. John 4:46

A Royal Official was one who served in Herod's household.
 Probably not even a Jew
 He came to engage Jesus in the problem of his son who was ill.

When your child is sick,
 No expense is wasted.
 All schedules are abandoned.
 Your focus as a mother and father are on the child.

Just this month I was called up to the hospital late at night
 To pray and anoint a very sick little 3 yr old boy.
 This little ever-ready bunny had run out of energy.
 He just lay lethargic on the bed.
 The Doctors didn't know the cause.
 It had been going on for more than week.
 They were flying him out to seek more care.
 Anything is tried.
 Anything is welcomed.

This Royal official, who is used to giving commands,
 And having orders obeyed,
 Went to Jesus and begged him...

And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. John 4:46-47

So Jesus next words seem a little unkind
 If we take them as an address to this father with a dying son.

But Jesus wasn't speaking to the father,
 Instead to this faithless crowd who is looking for signs and wonders,
 He raised his voice for all to hear.

⁴⁸"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." John 4:48

He was saying don't look at my miracles, look at me.
 I am the messiah, I am the one who will deliver you.

The Royal Official didn't get sidetracked by the crowd.

Or by the signs and wonders,
His focus was on his sick son.

⁴⁹The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." John 4:49

This man was not from Cana,
He was from Capernaum
We don't know how he heard about Jesus,
Maybe he was on special assignment in Jerusalem for the Passover,
Maybe his wife had seen the miracles, and sent him to seek out Jesus.
Whatever the reason he asked Jesus
to come to his home for his son healing?
God hears the prayers of praying parents.
Now Jesus did a super miracle.
He is nowhere near the boy.
Capernaum was about a day and a half journey from him.
And here Jesus distanced himself from all other
Healers, witch doctors, and sorcerers,
Who all had to be in the same room with the person,
With a lot of Incantations and smoke and mirrors
chicken bones, tarot cards, or conjured recipes
To draw down some spiritual power of demons or devils to heal.
Jesus was not drawing on external power.
He acted out of the 100% power that came from within himself.

Jesus said to the father

⁵⁰Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." John 4:50

Now what is amazing about this Father is
That he believes Jesus just because he said it.

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. John 4:50
and started back the day and a half journey to Capernaum

Not only does the Apostle John show

the extraordinary divine power of Jesus the healer.

But he shows the extraordinary power of faith in the believer.

Without Faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6.

This faithless crowd didn't get to see the result.

But this faithfilled father does.

⁵¹While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.⁵²When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."⁵³Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." John 4:51-53

The greatest miracle of this family

Was not that the son was healed,

But that the family came to believe in Jesus

So he and all his household believed. John 4:53b

Jesus miracles are always done to move us

in a spiritual direction or correction toward the Father.

And this family would spend eternal life together.

Fathers when you trust in God as your Savior and Lord,
And when you bring Jesus into the problems and concerns of your family
You can be sure that God will move you and your family in a spiritual direction.

I don't know what tests you may be facing today,
What overwhelming obstacles is threatening your family.
But I know that when you trust Christ.
And believe in Him and his word
He will act in your behalf.

Don't wait for a crises to began your faith journey.
Began now to study and pray together as a family.

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. I Timothy 4:15-16

**Now some time later Jesus went back to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.
He performed a second miracle at the sheep Gate pool.**

II. JESUS ENCOUNTERED THE MAN AT THE POOL

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda^{F31} and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. John 5:1-2

The pool called Bethesda means: the House of mercy.
Fed by an underground spring.

It was used for bathing,
But every once and a while the water was stirred,
It would bubble up
And when it did people who go in the water were healed.
That is why the scripture says there were so many

Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. John 5:3

But there was one man who had been there for 38 years,-a long time.

⁵One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. John 5:5

Note in this next verse that Jesus has inquired about him,

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, John 5:6

Now I don't think we find anything in scripture incidentally
Jesus wanted us to know that God knows all about us.
In all areas of our lives.
Nothing is hidden.

Jesus not only learned he was there for 38 years
But he learned the story of how he had become an invalid.
Due to his sinful past.

He asked him, "Do you want to get well?" John 5:6

He replied.

“Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." John 5:7

Now once again Jesus reached past anything external, (the pool, the stirred water, angels,) to the power within himself, and healed him.

⁸Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

This was a remarkable command

Since the invalid had been laying there for 38 years.

His muscle were useless, his legs obstacles to be drug about.

But this man teaches us a valid truth.

That we are not to question but to obey the word of God.

However useless we may feel it is.

However impossible we may see our situation.

God's grace will be sufficient in our obedience.

The man obeyed, and walked away.

However, he didn't know who had healed him.

It bothered him

This man gives us another rule of life.

When you have questions you cannot answer,

When you have answers you have questioned

you should start with God.

He went to church.

There is nothing more improper and insulting,
when we are raised up from a bed of pain,
freed from a life of sin, restored from a broken relationship,
than to forget God our benefactor,
and neglect to praise him for his mercies.

Oh if there has been anything in the ministry that
has disturbed and disappointed me more,
It is the that person who has been diagnosed with an illness
Given only months to live,
Called on the pastors and the church to pray
Put on multiple prayer chains across the nation.
Then God miraculously heals them.
Extends their life,
And soon the church never sees them again.
Until another crises comes.

¹⁴Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." John 5:14

Jesus words seem like a threat or a warning to him because

Jesus had learned that the mans past sin is what

Put him into this condition for 38 years.

We don't know what it was and we aren't told.

Was he stabbed, or wounded because of his mischief?
 Had he fallen in a burglary, or been beaten in a robbery?
 Whatever the cause.
 Jesus wanted the changed in the man to be complete.
 Jesus said:

Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you. John 5:14

We trifle with God today.
 We profess to be Christians and live like the world.
 We profess to take our vows of purity,
 Then live with no difference in our relationship than our unsaved neighbors.
 No difference in our sexual practices than the Saturday night bar crowd.
 No difference in our self restraint and we abort our own mistakes.
 And live with utter self centeredness and call it choice.
 But God is a jealous God,
 He desires that every person put Him and his Word first in all their lives.
 And to love our neighbors as ourselves,
 Which includes that unborn child in our womb.

This story ends with us knowing that this man in scripture did.
 When the Jews asked him who told him to carry his bed.
 He didn't answer their question
 He just tells them who made him well.

**¹⁵The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.
 John 5:14-15**

The royal official saw the miracle of his son healed,
 And He and his whole household believed.
 The invalid saw his body made whole again.
 His past sins forgiven,
 And he got up to live a life of a new person in Christ.

God is a great healer, He wants us whole
 He wants our family whole.
 When he reaches out to touch our lives,
 our children, our family, our community and church.
 He always does it to move us to a deeper spiritual life,
 To a greater understanding of our faith.
 And to a closer walk with our Lord Jesus.

What is it in our life today, that God is putting His finger on?
 Saying, "Get up, get away from that,
 Go back to you homes and
 You will find new life.
 A new beginning.
 Isn't that what we desire for ourselves and for our families?
 Christ, the Great Healer, is available today thru the Holy Spirit
 to mend what is broken and bruised, sinsick and lost.
 Will you trust Him now to "Have his own Way"