

More Than a Miracle – Week 4 Small Group Questions

Ice Breaker

1. Have you ever seen or experienced a miraculous healing? What is something you have seen that you would consider to be a miracle?
2. Share about a time when unexpected kindness from someone else made a significant difference in your life.
3. How have you seen God's timing at work, even if it didn't align with your expectations or desires?

Scripture

John 5:1-14, Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ² Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. ³ Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. ⁵ One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” ⁷ “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.” ⁸ Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” ⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!” ¹¹ But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” ¹² “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded. ¹³ The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. ¹⁴ But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.”

Discuss

1. In verse 3, some versions of the Bible include an explanation of an angel stirring the waters. What are your thoughts on this addition, and how do you think it impacts the interpretation of the passage?
2. Why do you think Jesus singled out the man who had been ill for 38 years? Also, if you were the lame man, how would you pass the time?

3. Pastor Jeff said, "I wonder how many of us have parts of our life that are not well, but we've grown so comfortable with the unhealthy that the thought of health is even more terrifying. Our sickness has become a part of us, and we have to answer the question, "Do you want to get well?" **Do you agree? If comfortable, share about an area of your life where you have grown used to it being unhealthy. Does it scare you to get well? Why or why not?**
4. What does Jesus asking the man if he wants to get well reveal about Jesus' approach to healing and the importance of personal choice? In other words, if the man told Jesus no, do you think Jesus would have respected his choice?
5. Read John 5:7. Why do you think the man didn't directly answer Jesus' question? Do you think people in general are also tempted to give excuses as to why we can't get well? What kind of excuses are we tempted to offer?
6. Pastor Jeff said, "The Spiritual healing Jesus had for the man was more important than the physical healing. What's the "worse" thing that could happen? What's worse than 38 years paralyzed? An eternity separated from Christ." **Do we care more about our spiritual healing than our physical healing? In other words, if Jesus never chooses to heal us physically, financially, emotionally, etc., are we content with only having him heal us spiritually? Why or why not?**

Practice

1. What is one thing that you can take away from this message?
2. Where in your life do you desire to be healed? Make a list of all your physical and spiritual desires and spend time surrendering those to Jesus. Take time this week to meditate on Habakkuk 3:17-19 and Zephaniah 3:17, giving thanks to God for His presence and spiritual healing in your life.