

Life Group Homework

JOHN 5:1-18 – JESUS HAS POWER OVER THE INCURABLE

Getting Started:

1. Can you share a time when a work of God in your life became a source of great joy?

2. Can you share a time when a work of God in your life was not so enjoyable? Did it eventually bring you great joy?

3. Can you think of a time when a work of God benefited someone else and it was a source of great joy for you?

4. Can you think of a time when a work of God benefited someone else and you struggled to find joy in it?

5. In thinking through the answers to the above questions, what elements or ingredients are necessary for finding joy in any given work of God?

Digging In:

1. In *John 5:6* Jesus asks the invalid man at the pool, “*Do you want to be healed?*” Why does Jesus ask this question and what does this tell us about Christ’s motives?
2. The words of Jesus in verse 14 seem to imply that the man’s sickness may have been a consequence or discipline for some sin in his life. Why didn’t Jesus let him remain in his condition?
3. We know from verse 13 that after Jesus healed this man he faded into the crowd and walked away. What sort of thoughts and emotions do you imagine Jesus having as he disappeared into the crowd?
4. Consider the three questions above and discuss what this tells us about the heart of God toward us.
5. In verses 10-11 we see that the Pharisees had a zeal for the Sabbath. When we read this passage we might find ourselves judging them for this. Read *Exodus 31:14-18 and 35:1-3, Numbers 15:32-41, and Jeremiah 17:21-27* and discuss whether the Pharisees were ‘unbiblical’ in their desire to enforce the Sabbath.

6. Read *Matthew 12:1-8 and 22:37-40*, as well as *John 7:22-24 and Colossians 2:16-17* and discuss why the man's action of carrying his mat was not a violation of the Sabbath laws.

7. Jesus says in verse 17 that he and his Father are working even now. What sort of works are they doing, and why do they not take a Sabbath rest from them? (Note: think about how the priests were supposed to work on the Sabbath to fulfill the law; think also about how acts of love fulfill the law.)

Living It Out:

1. Are there situations where we are slow to help people or hesitant to pray for God's work in their life because they have not satisfied some spiritual prerequisite? (i.e.: saying sorry, showing some change on their own, adequate repentance, etc.)

2. Why is it difficult for us to hope for healing and mercy when we know our sickness or circumstances are due to our own sins and shortcomings?

3. What sort of heart should we have toward God in response to everything this passage reveals about him?