

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 10, 2015

This Week's Focus: God expresses his love, mercy, and grace to us in the physical and spiritual healing work of Jesus Christ, His Son.

This Week's Text: John 5:1-15

"What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give...An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, 'If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure'...If we look to some created thing to give us the meaning, hope, and happiness that only God himself can give, it will eventually fail to deliver and break our hearts." **Tim Keller**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Why is Jesus in Jerusalem at the beginning of John 5? What is significant about this area of Jerusalem, specifically near the Sheep Gate? Reference Nehemiah 12:38-43.
- Why are so many suffering people gathered around the pool at Bethesda? What is the local legend/superstition of the pool?
- What divine characteristics do we see in Jesus even before he speaks to the man? How did Jesus know that the man had been sick for 38 years without asking him? Why did he choose to approach and heal this particular man among the multitude of others?
- Why did Jesus ask the man if he wanted to be healed? Do you think the man wanted to be healed? Did this man's healing depend on any effort or desire on his part?
- What came first, the man's healing or his obedience to the Lord's command to walk? Why is the order significant? Discuss how salvation is ordered the same way. Reference Ephesians 2:1-10.
- Why did the Jewish religious leaders (Pharisees) scold the man for carrying his mat on the Sabbath? Did the man actually break Sabbath law? Whose law had the man really broken?

- Explain the irony in Jesus' statement in verse 14. What root problem was Jesus pointing out?
- Discuss how physical suffering can be, but is not necessarily the consequence to personal sin. Reference 1 Corinthians 11:27-30, John 9:1-3.
- Discuss how this passage is a picture of the Gospel. How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?