

Moving Forward

John 5:1-9

Assumptions occur all the time. In fact, assumptions rule how we think and what we do since assumptions work in the background of our conscious minds. This behind-the-scenes playground for assumptions create our beliefs. In fact, when you hear the following words – nerd, school teacher, gamer. Pastor, salesperson, or politician, what is the first thing that came to your mind? No matter what came to your mind, your first thought is your assumption. If you are not careful assumptions will cause you to stay stuck and not move forward. Assumptions will cause you to want the days of before and not live in the present. If you are not careful assumptions will create a life of trials and sadness. And that is where our scripture begins.

A person is lying at a place where healing was known to occur. The assumption at the time was there was a certain way one was healed at this place. And because this person couldn't do that was needed, he assumed he would never be healed. For more than thirty years, his assumptions held him back and he was unable to move forward. His assumptions created a belief that caused him to never be able to move forward from his present situation. Can you relate? When has your assumptions and beliefs held you back from moving forward, almost paralyzing you?

In the scripture, Jesus challenges his basic assumption and belief about healing. Jesus doesn't care about the pool or the process or how long he has been there. Jesus only cares about this man challenging his assumption that healing comes from an outward source instead of an inward source. Jesus is asking the man to become awake and realize his assumption that has caused him to get stuck and not move forward. When have you become awoken and realized an assumption you have is holding your back or causing you to not see something? The Greek word that is translated into Get Up in this scripture can also mean to arouse and wake up. Jesus is calling us (maybe even commanding us) to wake up and realize our assumptions and what is holding us back.

To challenge an assumption, one must be willing to see things differently and be able to say their assumption wasn't right. This man in the scripture was willing and ready to challenge his assumptions. Are you willing and ready to challenge your assumptions of things such as anger, injustice, or love? Assumptions have the power to hold us back and challenging them has the power of moving us forward. Are you willing to move forward?

Lord, God. Jesus – help me to challenge my assumptions that are holding me back. Help me to see the situations in my life that seem impossible to change can be changed in some way. Help me Lord to be open to realizing my assumptions may be wrong and that I need to let go of what was to allow me to move into the future. Amen.

by Rev. David Piltz