

## Being Present (February 10, 2021 - Upper Room)

**Read:** John 5:1-18 (NIV)

### **The Healing at the Pool**

<sup>5</sup> Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda<sup>Ⓜ</sup> and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.<sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. [<sup>4</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>] <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

<sup>7</sup> “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.”

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

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

<sup>11</sup> But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

<sup>12</sup> So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

<sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

### **The Authority of the Son**

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

## **Read the February 10 installment in the Upper Room**

### **Lesson background: based on the above scripture**

Sources: [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) <http://www.abideinchrist.com>

- The Pool of Bethesda was a place that was thought to have miraculous healing water. You had to be the first one in the water when it started to bubble and spring up to receive the healing.
- Jesus was focused on the present moment regardless of the distractions around Him
- Jesus used this public healing of the lame man to show Himself as God
- Jesus heard the man's whining even though this pool area was a noisy, crowded place.
- Jesus asks the question, "Do you want to be made well?" He asks this same kind of question 3 other times:
  - He asked it when John and James asked (thru their mom) to be the "top guys" in the Jesus administration (Matthew 20:21; Mark 10:36)
  - When 2 blind men cried out to be healed (Matthew 20:32; Mark 10:51; Luke 18:41)
  - When Jesus invited His disciples to come follow Him (John 1:38)
- We can be more comfortable in our present misery than taking the steps we need to be free.
- The healed man explained to the Jewish leadership how he was healed by the mere words of Jesus.

- The Jewish leadership ignored the miracle and took offense that the man was carrying his bed on the Sabbath. (and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”)
- This event is thought to be when the Jewish leadership began to plot to destroy Jesus

### **Daily application from this lesson:**

- We often get caught up in the details of our worship, small group meetings, devotional time rather than the “why” are we doing it
- If we only look to others and wait for them to help us, we will always remain lame.
- God is **always present** in all of my daily situations
- Jesus is always focused on me; I should always be present with Him

### **Reflection:**

1. Have you ever encountered someone who is “paralyzed in his/her misery”? Is that person ever you?
2. What helps you to slow down and focus on the present moment? How do you notice God’s love when you do so?
3. What can we learn from Jesus’ ability to focus?

# Thought for the week:

I will try to be more focused on the presence of Jesus in my daily situations