

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

?

Do You Want to Be Made Well?

John 5:1-9

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. **John 5:5-6; 8-9b**

DISCUSSION

Throughout this sermon series, hopefully we have been able to wonder and wrestle with some questions in our own lives. In this passage from John, we explore one of the most personal questions we might ever be asked: “**Do you want to be made well?**” Though the question might seem obvious at first, we can hopefully move toward answering this question within parts of our own lives. It’s important to point out how this passage has been used in hurtful ways over time: both that one’s level of belief can impact whether or not healing can occur, and the disapproval Jesus faced from healing this man on the Sabbath by righteous religious leaders.

When we sit with this question, it becomes more of a question of our identity, Thomas says. Just as the identity of the man in this passage is “one who had been ill for thirty-eight years,” this would be how he had seen himself and how his life had been dictated.

Consider what gives you a sense of who you are. What are some good things that have shaped and molded who you are?

How would other people identify you? How might the perspectives of people who don’t know you well, and those people close to you who know both your beauty and your pain, be different?

When we respond to trauma or hardship by entering into “survival mode,” we can tend to keep going down the same path without changing our trajectory. It is sometimes easier, says Thomas, to keep certain questions at arm’s length and debate them, rather than making them more personal to us.

In what areas of your life does the question, “do you want to be made well?” apply right now?

Think about the ways in which you may be invited into something new as a response to this question. *How can your small group, family, or friends help you stay focused on a new strategy or path to which God might be calling you?*

PRAYER

*Lord, we give you thanks that when we feel powerless to change, You can provide us the strength we need. Help us to be prayerful this week, especially as we enter into this busy season, of the areas in our lives in which we need to “be made well.” May we be truthful and loving to each other as we seek to follow you with all our hearts. **Amen.***