



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 5:1-15
From Sermon 8.6.23

Read *John 5:1-15*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Chapter 5 opens with the second of back-to-back healing miracles. The circumstances and the results could not be more different. The account also introduces the first wave of formal opposition to Jesus and His mission. From this point forward, the religious leaders will be looking for ways to arrest and eliminate Him. For us, however, the Scripture leads us to focus not only on further evidence of the I AM, but our understanding of both tribulations in the world and our gratitude.

1. How easy is it for us to forget how God has miraculously delivered us from sin, crisis, and heartache? Very easy. Before the next crisis, we've often already forgotten how He previously delivered us.

1a. What are some several reasons this happens? Various answers. We tend to focus on the here and now. We remember past hurts, abuses, and loses, but forget victories, healings, and wins.

1b. What is the result? Various answers. Self-focus. Lack of faith. Bitterness. Resentment. Poor doctrine about the nature of God and my identity in Christ. Ingratitude. Sin.

2. Review and discuss the major difference in responses from royal official (ch. 4) vs this lame man at the Temple gate (ch. 5).

- Official's son = healing = testimony = conversions = praise
- This man = healing = silence = no conversions = opposition

3. Why did Jesus heal (without asking, regardless of cause, & despite how He knew they'd respond)?

- Compassion—See *Matthew 14:14*
- Evidence—See *John 10:37-38*
- Lesson—See *Matthew 12:11-12*

4. Pastor Charley used to consider this the "strangest question in the entire Bible": *Do you wish to be well?* Discuss the reality of the far too common answer: "No, thank you. My issue has some payoff."

4a. Is this not also the underlying question at the heart of all evangelism? Yes. Being delivered or spiritually healed/well = Obligation unto sanctified. "No. I don't want to change my life. Will = Lose friends, change jobs, miss out on "fun", being obligated to forgive others (abusers).

5. The end of chapter 4 and the start of chapter 5 brings up the subject of pain and calamity. Why is there suffering? [Part 1 = first two causes. Next week = second two causes]

- My own personal sin choices
- The sin nature of others (*Mark 7:21-23*) & the corruption of the natural world (*Genesis 3:17-19*)

5a. Discuss the challenging topic of "why do bad things happen to good people/the innocent".
See also *Mark 10:18, Romans 3:10-12, & Romans 8:20-22*

5b. Have you ever struggled with this reality? Various Personal Answers