



DATE May 12, 2019

SPEAKER Doug Carroll

TITLE The Healing of the Paralytic

SERIES Jesus said and did a lot of memorable, meaningful and miraculous things during His life on earth. Each one of those things revealed something different about Him, but do they prove that Jesus is who He says He is?

This week, Pastor Doug walks us through John 5:1-15 and how every encounter with Jesus will have a response, but may not produce faith. “The Healing of the Paralytic” shows us how we, too, must “Get up, pick up our mats and walk”!

- 1) After the paralytic was healed, there was no indication that he became a follower of Jesus.
 - a) How do you think people can experience signs and wonders and still not have faith?
 - b) Of all the people around the pool of Bethesda needing miracles, why do you think Jesus chose the paralytic instead of someone else who might have become more of an ardent supporter of the ministry?
- 2) When Jesus learned the paralytic had been struggling with the same issues for 38 years, he asked “Do you want to get well?” Sometimes, we get so used to wrestling with the same problem in our lives that it becomes “normal” to us.
 - a) Is there an area of your life where you’ve struggled so long and feel like such a “victim” that you’ve forgotten it’s possible to get well?
 - b) If you’ve been in the same predicament for a long time, what can you do to change your posture and perspective?
- 3) Jesus challenges us to “pick up our mat” and be overcomers. Have you conquered something from your past? How did you do it and how can you use your experience to encourage others not to allow the past to determine their destinies?
- 4) When Jesus told the paralytic to pick up his mat and walk, the man was healed at once and did as Jesus said.
 - a) How does obedience factor into the equation when it comes to being set free from bondage?
 - b) Jesus warned the man to stop sinning or something worse may happen to him. Is there always a cause and effect relationship between sin and sickness?
- 5) Read **John 9:3** about the man blind from birth and **Mark 2:3-11** about another paralytic and compare and contrast their stories. Instead of rejoicing with the paralytic over his healing, the Jewish leaders were outraged that Jesus would tell someone to pick up their mat on the Sabbath. How can legalism and tradition quench the move of the Spirit?

Be intentional this week about discerning what your “mat” is and take the courage to “get up”. Your history does not have to determine your destiny.