

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Miracle Man” (pt. 4) – 6/9/2014

Scripture: John 5:1-17

Bottom Line: Jesus' mission is to glorify God through redeeming us.

INTRODUCTION: What's the general problem with familiarity? We tend to get bored or what used to motivate, inspire, or create wonder in us now just becomes a normal part of our lives. Let's not forget that as we study this passage, it is miraculous that God has ANYTHING to do with us, even more so that he makes us the object of his eternal love.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 5:1-10

Let's set the context for the story. Jesus enters Jerusalem during a feast. This means the city of Jerusalem, which was already a busy city, would be even more packed because of outsiders coming into the city for the feast. By one of the gates to the city was a pool called the Bethesda, which means 'house of mercy'. Here Jesus chooses a man in the most need, who had been crippled for longer than most people lived in the ancient world and he heals him. There could be no denying that this man was truly in need of help.

What was Jesus trying to communicate to the people?

- He is the Messiah, the Savior. All authority belongs to him and he truly cares for us, even the lowliest of our society. He knows our need and he pursues us in order to bless and restore us.

Read John 5:10-16

What were the Jews who were complaining about Jesus' actions missing?

- It's unreal how familiarity can dull our senses to the things of God. The Jews were so wrapped up in religious tradition that they missed the fact

that the one to whom the Scriptures had predicted was standing before them. He was healing the sick and yet they could not see that God was pursuing them to restore them. It is miraculous that God would become a man named Jesus and spend his time helping people had rebelled against him.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Spend some time reflecting on what God's grace means. How would you define it?

- The best definition of God's grace that I've heard was, "Grace is when someone gives you something and you do not deserve it." This fits well with the overall message of the Bible. God created man. Man rebelled against God and deserved separation and punishment for such a crime. God pursues his lost children and through the sacrifice of his own life, he restores us to himself.

Just as the Jews let religious tradition get in the way of letting them see the work of God right in front of them, what obstacles are in your life that prevent you from further seeing the work of God?

How does God speak to that obstacle?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How should we respond to this passage?

- Know that God is presently at work in your life and all around you.
- Encourage everyone to pray for God to open their eyes to his work in their life.
- Just as the man went and told the Jews that Jesus had healed him, so too can we go to our community and declare that Jesus has healed us.