

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 5:1-18)

- 1. In John 1:1-18 Jesus heals a man based purely on His goodness - not based upon the man's faith (the man didn't know Jesus).
Can you think of any situation in your life when the Lord was at work for your good despite your lack of faith?
- a situation where the Lord acted when you may have been inactive, lethargic, or utterly hopeless?
What was the situation, and how did it impact your faith from that point on?
Have you taken any steps to record this so you remember His faithfulness and goodness to you in this situation?
If not - I'd encourage you to write it down and give thanks to the Lord.**

(If you can't think of one, remember what God's Word reveals about our very salvation - "God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - the faithfulness of God to us when we displayed no faith)
- 2. Jesus once again has a particular purpose in His travels, yet He willingly interrupts His plans to carry-out the work of the Father.
Example - journeying from Judea to Galilee, stops for a drink in Samaria & stays for two days to minister among the Samaritans.
Example - journeying into Jerusalem for the feast, prior to entering the Temple, He stops to bring healing to this man!
Have you experienced what you believed was a disruption to your plans to discover that the detour was of the Lord?
What was the situation, and how did you see the Lord at work through it?
Has this experience shifted your perspective toward other "disruptions" in your life?**
- 3. One of the pitfalls of the Pharisees in this passage is that they allowed their own laws to usurp God's revealed Word.
Because of this, they fixated upon the assumed offense and completely disregarded the miraculous work before them.
As you consider your greatest priorities, are they aligned with God's Word or rooted in some other source?
Think about traditions/convictions you hold most dearly - are they more like Christ's values or the Pharisees' values?
Have any of your traditions (personal or in the church) become ritualistic and lost their intended meaning?
A good litmus test is

 - 1. Does this tradition lead me in humble worship & to a deeper dependence upon Jesus?**
OR
 - 2. Does this tradition lead me to care more about my preferences than valuing others as better than myself?**
OR
 - 3. Does this tradition have little impact on my life, but I do it because it's what I/we've always done?**

Upon sincere reflection, if you find that your answer is anything other than 1

4. Jesus is doing that which is right on the Sabbath, and His righteous action results in the powers of His day persecuting Him.

Read the following words of Jesus: Matthew 5:10-12 & John 15:20

If we are followers of Jesus, what should we be prepared for as far as the attitudes of others toward us?

How should we react when persecution comes our way (for doing that right: standing on the truth of God's Word)?

Be careful to remember, Jesus never SOUGHT OUT persecution - we don't need to go out of our way to pursue persecution. As the values of the world are contrary to the values of God, if we love well and speak the truth in love, (as Jesus did ALWAYS), we can still expect persecution from others.

5. Jesus reveals His divinity in this passage, not only by the power He demonstrates in the miraculous healing, but also in His words.

How does Jesus statement in John 5:17 reveal His divinity and His claim of equality with God?

Why is this an important truth for us to understand and remember?

What difference does getting this right make in our beliefs

What practical impact does this have for us?

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. Evaluate your traditions:

Don't let them keep you from godliness.

2. Jesus healing to you goes beyond the physical:

This comes with a call to repent and obey.

3. Live out the truth as revealed in Scripture:

Even if it results in persecution from others.