

SOUTHWEST LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

“Do You Want to Be Healed?” – 3-18-07”

OPEN: Imagine if Jesus approached you right now, just the two of you, and with a knowing look he asked the same question he asked the man in John 5:6. “Do you want to be healed?” What would your first response be? (Answer the follow up question depending on which response you would have):

“*Healing from what?*” - Would you answer this way because you don’t know what inside you needs healing or because you are aware of so many hurts?

“*I have already been healed.*” - From what? How/when did it happen? How do you use being healed to minister to others?

“*I can’t be healed from what I’ve got.*” - What is the “story you tell yourself” that makes you think this?

“*I don’t need healing from anything.*” - What would the life of someone who needs no healing from Christ look like? Is this your life?

“*No. I need my suffering/woundedness.*” – What is the payoff to ‘always having an excuse’?

“*Yes, most definitely.*” - From what? What are you (or are you) willing to suffer to have this healing?

DIG: Read John 5:1-15.

- Vs. 1-3 – John sets up the story he’s writing by speaking of a ‘place’ where the hurting gathered. Where are the “places” where the hurting gathers in our day?
- Vs. 5-6 – What strikes you about this encounter?
 - Why didn’t Jesus just heal him? Why bother with the question?
 - Do you think there had to be a “want to” in the man’s will?
 - Can you imagine any reasons why the man might not “want to”?
 - Why is asking a man who had been an invalid 38 years if he wants to be made well is *not* a bizarre question.
- Vs. 10-15 – What happened to the man’s courage in talking about Jesus after he experienced this healing and knew where it had come from? Why would he in vs. 15 be so bold about telling the Jews about Jesus, when in vs. 10 they had accused him of lawbreaking?

DISCUSS: Discuss this quote: “*There are 3 kinds of people: those who know they need healing, those who need to know they need healing, and those who are healing. And you can spot the latter because they are in the business of healing others.*”

- **FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THEY NEED HEALING:** When Jesus met the man, he asked him if he wanted to be well. Fortunately, he did, and Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk, and he did. He was healed after 38 years. How long has it been for you?
- **FOR THOSE WHO DON’T KNOW IF THEY NEED HEALING:** Have you ever stopped to consider that the things that bother you (particularly ‘in others’) might be clues to areas in your life that might need healing? What do you think of that idea? What are the things that bother you?
- In order to heal (or become aware of your need for healing), you may have to do some things that push you out of your comfort zone. Has anyone in this group experienced this? How?

PRAY: When the Southwest church reaches out to humanity and offers them Christ, what we are offering them is healing--healing from sin, from broken hearts, from woundedness that comes in a variety of ways. Since healed people heal people, pray to God that everyone in your group become what Brennan Manning calls “wounded healers”.