

# “Do You Want to Get Well?”

## John 5:1-15

If I could have one ability that Jesus had during his earthly ministry, I would choose the ability to heal the sick. I can think of very few things in the human realm more rewarding than restoring the health of a cancer victim or making a child who is stricken with cystic fibrosis whole again. I often find myself visiting a hospital room or sitting in the home of a dying friend wishing I had the capacity to bring instant healing to that person's weak and ravaged body:

**GROUP DISCUSSION.** What are you like when you get sick?

- a whimpering puppy
- a roaring lion
- a hibernating bear

How do people around you usually respond when you are sick?

---



---

**PERSONAL REFLECTION.** When have you experienced physical pain that you longed for Jesus to heal?

---



---

Twenty specific miracles of healing are recorded in the Gospels. Each one reveals Jesus' power and compassion. Jesus changed many lives but few were changed as dramatically as the life of a man who had waited thirty-eight years for a miracle. *Read John 5:1-15.*

1. If you were a CNN reporter covering this story, what scenes would you include in your video report?

---



---

What people would you interview? Why?

---



---

2. What was Jesus trying to discover about the man at the pool when he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" (v. 6)?

---



---

3. Was the man's response to Jesus (v. 7) an explanation or an excuse? Why did you come to that conclusion?

---



---

4. When have you felt that God was waiting too long to do what you had asked him to do?

---



---

5. The man was cured instantly. How did the people around him respond (vv. 9-10)?

---



---

6. The healed man did not even know who Jesus was (v. 13). What insight does that give you on the relationship between a person’s faith and miraculous healing?

---

---

7. When Jesus talked to the man later (v. 14), he told him to "stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." Do you think the man was physically sick because of sin in his life? Explain.

---

---

8. If Jesus is the same today as he was when he was on earth, should we expect the same dramatic healings today? Why or why not?

---

---

9. Based on the principles gleaned from this incident, what will you do the next time you are sick?

---

---

10. What advice and direction will you give to a Christian friend who becomes sick or disabled?

---

---

What are some things you will not say?

---

---

*Acknowledge to God that he alone is the one who heals (Exodus 15:26).*

**Now or Later**

Talk to a Christian friend who has experienced serious sickness. Ask the friend what promises from Scripture he or she found most sustaining during the rough times. What spiritual disciplines (prayer, meditation, worship) brought comfort? Remember that you are not talking with the person to sit in judgement but to learn from someone who has walked the path of suffering