

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E18

Do You Want To Be Healed? - John 5:5-16

Description – When Jesus asks the disabled man at the pool, “Do you want to get well?” We tend to think the man would say, “Well of course I do!” But there’s more to the question than what we initially think. Join us today as we investigate this encounter.

A clarification from last week about wandering in the wilderness. 38 years wandering and 40 years wandering. Deut 2:14 says it was 38 years. Which is correct, that it was from the spies scouting the land and coming back to the people to say “we can’t take the land” and then the people began the wanderings. But the totality of leaving Egypt, going to Sinai, traveling up to the land, spying out the land and then wandering was 40 years.

John 5:5-16

⁵ One man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the disabled man answered, “I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ “Get up,” Jesus told him, “pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.

Now that day was the Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.”

¹¹ He replied, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² “Who is this man who told you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk’?” they asked. ¹³ But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

When Jesus tells this man to get up and walk, that’s a huge ask. This man hasn’t walked in 38 years. Jesus is asking him to literally step out in faith. Pick up the mat and walk. Not only does he do that, he’s doing that on the Sabbath.

This is a violation of the prohibition of doing ANY work on the Sabbath. He was a walking billboard down main street because not only was he walking, he was carrying a large mattress that he slept and stayed on for 38 years. He was the ONLY one carrying anything, because that was considered doing work.

This man was healed by Jesus, but the people missed it. They were upset more over him healing on the Sabbath and then this man carrying a mat on the Sabbath than they were rejoicing over this mans healing.

Jesus never broke the written law. He did break the Pharisees “oral law” which was their safeguards to protect them from getting close to the written law.

But is there anywhere in the Bible that talks about the oral law or tradition? I’m glad you asked...

Mark 7:5-8

⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders, instead of eating bread with ceremonially unclean hands?”

⁶ He answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands.

⁸ Abandoning the command of God, you hold on to human tradition.”

Jesus here is saying to the scribes and Pharisees, you have abandoned the law of God to hold on to human tradition, to hold on to the “tradition of the elders.”

The “oral law” / Tradition is like a Russian Nesting Doll that has wrapped up and taken over the law of God. It’s been put around it so many times that you’ve forgotten what the meaning of the law was.

There were clearly times where work could be done on the sabbath. If a donkey fell into a pit it could be rescued. If a child was born and was to be circumcised on the 8th day, if the 8th day fell on a sabbath, then the child was to be circumcised. Compassion should always override the ritualistic legalistic law.

After this man is healed, Jesus pursues him again (the second time!) and says to the man, “

John 5:14

¹⁴ After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.”

What does it mean when it says, "Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you."

Is every sickness caused by sin? No, not every sickness. But 1 Corinthians 11 Paul warns about sin that leads to sickness, and 1 John 5:16 talks about sin that leads to death.

Its almost like God says, "You're going to drag my name through the mud, so I'm going to take your life to protect my Glory."

Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11

However, God also uses sickness and disability to reveal and display His glory. John 9 and then the resurrection of Lazarus.