



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 12

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 5:1-17

Summary:

Jesus makes the trip up to Jerusalem to attend a religious feast, and while he's there, he manages to upset the Jewish authorities (again!). This time, he heals a man who had been lame for 38 years (nearly an entire lifetime in that day), and he does it on the Sabbath. The healed man's reaction is not what you might expect, and his interactions with Jesus reveal much about Jesus' mission and methods in seeking out and saving the lost. Also, Jesus' exchange with the religious leaders reveals how badly their religion was out of touch with the heart of the Father in bringing healing and salvation.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why might Jesus head back to Jerusalem at this time (v. 1)? Why do you think it may have been important for him to be there for the feast?
3. Why do you think your bible (depending on the translation you have) 'skips' from verse 3 to verse 5 (or has verse 4 in parentheses)? Check the notes in a good study bible or go online to find out why this verse is omitted in most modern translations. Why do you think some manuscripts might have added the material in verse 4?

4. Why did Jesus even ask the question, "Do you want to be healed?" (v. 6)? How would you characterize the invalid's response (v. 7)? Why do you think he doesn't answer Jesus' question directly?

5. **Application:** Does your attitude ever look like the invalid's? In the face of Jesus' offer of healing/restoration, have you ever chosen to focus instead on the reasons why it's impossible? Why is this?

6. Jesus healed a man who showed no signs of faith (at least at the time), and who didn't even really ask him for healing. What does that say about who Jesus is and what he's all about?

7. What's important about the fact that this healing happened on the Sabbath? What does that say about Jesus and his mission?

8. What do you make of Jesus' later interaction with the man he had healed (v. 14)? Notice how Jesus called attention to his greatest issue (sin). Do you think the man was interested in Jesus, or in the blessing he received from Jesus? **Application:** Have you ever viewed or treated Jesus as a means to an end, a way to get a blessing? How does this tendency show up in your life, and how can you resist it?

9. What's the central claim Jesus makes in v. 17? **Application:** Do you trust Jesus to do his work, in your life and in the world around you? Does Jesus' plan ever run up against your plans? What do you do in that case? How can we begin to trust him more?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?