



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Found Twice"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - You can spend much of your life watching the water and miss Christ and His mercies.

Point 2 - The commands of Christ carry the power to perform them.

Point 3 - God's grace and mercy abound and overflow to the gracious and merciful.

Point 4 - God's grace never leaves us where it found us.

Key Verse:

"Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.'"

—John 5:14

Discussion Questions:

1. "They were waiting for the moving of the water."

Picture the scene at Bethesda — a "house of mercy" that had become a place of competition, where only the first one in got healed. Pastor Miles said the tragedy wasn't just that these people were sick; it was that Christ was standing right there and "not a single one of them sought him. Their eyes were fixed on the water."

What are you waiting for the water to move on right now? What's the one thing you keep thinking about, praying about, hoping will shake loose — the thing you believe would make everything okay?

Further Reading: Psalm 42:5–11 — David preaching to his own soul, "Hope in God." Notice what he tells himself to look at instead of his circumstances.

2. Two Ways to Miss It

Miles pointed out a contrast between two people Jesus met. The woman at the well looked at Jesus' limitations ("Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep"). The man at Bethesda looked at his own limitations ("Sir, I have no man to put me into

the pool"). Miles suggested nearly all of us land in one of those two camps: either *Jesus doesn't have the power* or *I don't have the power*.

Which of those two is your default? Which excuse comes out of your mouth more naturally — and where did you learn it?

Further Reading: John 4:7–15 alongside John 5:6–7. Read the two conversations back to back and compare the responses.

3. The Question That Feels Like a Punch to the Gut

Jesus asks a man who has been lying there 38 years: "Do you want to be made well?" It sounds almost insincere — of course he does. And yet the man doesn't answer the question. He never says "yes." He says, "I have no one."

Why do you think Jesus asked it anyway? Is there any part of you that has grown comfortable with a struggle you've carried a long time — where being made well would cost you something (an identity, an excuse, a reason people show up for you)?

Further Reading: Mark 10:46–52 — Jesus asks blind Bartimaeus a nearly identical question, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Compare Bartimaeus's answer to this man's.

4. PRACTICAL — "Rise, take up your bed, and walk."

Three impossible commands to a man who couldn't stand. Point two of the message: **the commands of Christ carry the power to perform them.** Pastor Miles told the story of Pastor Tony asking him in 1999 to teach junior high — his internal answer was "Nope, nope, nope. Can't do that." He stepped anyway, and found the power was there because he wasn't relying on his own.

Name it out loud: what is the thing you feel God nudging you toward that you keep talking yourself out of because you're convinced you can't? Now decide on the first concrete step — one phone call, one conversation, one act of obedience — and pick someone in this group to check in with you on it before you meet again.

Further Reading: Luke 18:27; Philippians 2:12–13; 2 Corinthians 12:9–10. Notice in Philippians *who* is doing the working while you're doing the working out.

5. PRACTICAL — Grace Given Away

A man walked for the first time in nearly four decades, and the religious people ran off to find the guy responsible for the carrying violation. Miles's warning was uncomfortable: far too often, "the people who make it hardest on the newly transformed person are the church people." Point three: **God's grace and mercy abound and overflow to the gracious and the merciful.** And his test for finding your assignment was blunt — think of the person who ticks you off. That's your person.

Who came to mind just now? (You don't have to say the name.) What would one specific act of mercy toward that person look like this week — and what's actually stopping you?

Be honest with each other about the second half of that: have you ever been the one putting up the hurdle, holding a new believer to a standard of theology or behavior they haven't had time to grow into yet?

Further Reading: Matthew 5:7; Matthew 18:21–35 (the unforgiving servant); James 2:12–13; Luke 15:25–32 — the older brother, standing outside the party.

6. Found Twice

The title comes from the fact that Jesus sought this man out at the pool and went looking for him a second time in the temple. Miles noted: "This man never sought for the Lord once, but Jesus came looking for him." The first visit dealt with the acute problem — the illness. The second dealt with the deeper one: "Sin no more." Point four: **God's grace never leaves us where it found us.** He isn't content to heal you; he intends to make you whole.

Where has God already found you once — and where do you sense him coming back for a second conversation? What's the area you'd rather call "handled" that he seems unwilling to leave alone?

Further Reading: John 8:1–11 (the same "go and sin no more"); Romans 6:1–14 (shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?); Philippians 1:6; Luke 19:10 — the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.