

Connecting People to Jesus Week 3

John 5:1-9 - The Healing at the Pool

Sometimes we get accustomed to things being broken. Just slap a little duct tape on it, make it functional again, and we pretty soon are blind to the shiny grey eyesore of a bandaid. It's not just our possessions we get used to being broken. We also get used to the state of our bodies, relationships, emotions, spirituality, and other aspects of our lives. We sometimes use the saying, "the devil you know is better than the devil you don't" as an excuse for ourselves and others. Sometimes it is even a subconscious filter in our mind and our decision-making that perpetuates brokenness.

In this story, Jesus talks to a man that has been an invalid for 38 years and asks him if he'd like to get well. Well of course he wants to be well, that's why he's at the healing pool. Right? Not so fast, Jesus perceives the situation and cuts to the heart of the situation. The guy hasn't gotten in the water and his excuse is pretty weak. Perhaps someone gets in the water before him the first day or the second. But thirty-eight years is over 13,000 days! Does he really want to be well? Maybe not. He's become accustomed to the rhythm of his daily life of laying around, begging, getting just enough to buy some food, and repeating the process. Jesus doesn't assume the guy wants to be well and his interaction forces the man to articulate why he's next to the pool in the first place.

Have you ever settled for something broken but then later became discontent? What created your discontent?

Do you feel like there is currently something broken in your own life? Do you make excuses that keep you from experiencing "resurrection"? What are those excuses?

Are you ever surprised by yourself, friends, or family that would rather endure something than experiencing the unknown?

The command "get up" that Jesus uses is actually associated in the gospel stories with resurrection. Considering today's culture, how can we call others around us to living a resurrected life?

The most effective way to share our faith with others is not by trying to be perfect. When we do that, we many times get accused of being hypocrites. The most effective way is to acknowledge that we're messed up and to consistently point to Jesus as the one that has offered us healing.