



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 7

We returned to our Believe in Miracles series during the season of Lent. Together, we are anticipating the big miracle that all other miracles point to...the resurrection of Jesus Christ! This week Pastor Jacob shared about the healing of the lame man near one of the gates in Jerusalem. The man had struggled to get to the healing waters, so Jesus asked him if he wanted to be made well. He's asking if the man has done the things that might lead him to healing. Then Jesus told him to get up and walk—not to the waters but into life—he was healed! For years the man had longed for healing and it came right on time. I pray you'll find hope for healing in all kinds of ways and at just the right time this week.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Jesus,
You know where I need you to show up right now.
You know the ache and the longing of my heart today.
You know I long to be made well.
Forgive me for missed opportunities to turn to you.
I turn to you now.
Say the word and I will walk (and yes, run) into a new life in you.
Amen*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 5.1-6

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵One who

was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

- The Aramaic word Bethesda means *house of mercy* or *house of grace*. People in need of healing would gather there and wait for an angel to come and stir the water—an act that would allow the first person in the water to be healed. Anyone who would gather there (also the place where sheep were brought in towards the temple of sacrifice) was desperate for healing. Where do we tend to go for healing today? Are there places of desperation where those who are sick and lame gather in hopes of a chance at a restored life?
- *Jesus, stir the waters of healing for me and for those I name before you today.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 5.6b-9

“Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

- This answer to Jesus’ question seemed rather obvious. *Do I want to be made well? Uh, yeah, that’s why I’m here!* But Jesus was asking him if he could do something besides wait for the water to be stirred. Would he believe that Jesus could bring the healing that the man had so long waited for? He answered the question when he picked up his mat and walked. The pool had been a source of healing for many people. Those who had made it to the water and were healed would testify to that. But Jesus offers to bring healing to the man. The miracle takes place when he believes that Jesus can do it.
- *Thank you, God, for the marvels of science and medicine that offer healing. And thank you for the healing power of Jesus Christ who offers to make me well with his word and in my belief.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 5.11-15

...he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- The man who was lame didn’t realize who it was that had healed him. He wasn’t required to have Jesus all figured out. His desperation was met by an untethered promise that he could be made well. It was later that Jesus revealed who he was and instructed the man to live a changed life so that he could fully live into his healing. If you know the rest of the Jesus story, you know that by revealing his identity to the man, Jesus stirred the sentiment of the Jewish leaders that he must be stopped. It wasn’t the last time that Jesus was willing to risk his life for the sake of others.
- *Jesus, thank you for your willingness to step into this messy world and my messy life. I want to be made well.*

THURSDAY: HABAKKUK 2.2-3

*...the Lord said to me,
"Write my answer plainly on tablets,
so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.*

³*This vision is for a future time.
It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.
If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently,
for it will surely take place.
It will not be delayed.*

- God's timing has always been mysterious. Sometimes we are surprised with what seems to be an immediate intervention, and other times it feels like the fulfillment of his promise is painfully slow. The scripture often calls us to stay focused on the long view. The vision of God's peaceful kingdom on earth will be fulfilled. Let's write it in big letters to remind ourselves and to point the whole world to that which is to come!
- *God, I look to the future time when the vision you have laid out for my life is fulfilled. Help my impatience in the waiting. I trust in you.*

FRIDAY: ISAIAH 40.29-31

*He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.
³¹But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.*

- The power to make it to our place of healing comes from God. Being weak, powerless, and tired is actually a reality that God can work with. Trusting in the Lord restores our strength and gives us endurance for the unknown timeline of our own restoration. When have you most felt the supernatural power of God?
- *God, I long for the strength that comes from you. I want to walk, run, and fly in your power.*

SATURDAY: 2 PETER 3.8-10a

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief.

- Jesus existed before creation—before time began. He is both over time and in our time. When it seems that he is slow to act, we do well to remember that he is not constrained by our understanding of time. God is kind and patient with us—he wants us to turn away from the destructive ways of this world and to look to him. If he is slow in responding, it is for our own sake.
- *Jesus, I look forward to your return. I want to see the world set right. But I trust in your timing so that all might be saved.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Sometimes we say that we want something with our words, but our actions tell a different story. The same could be true of our relationship with God. We give words to our belief in God, but our lives don't fully reflect our words. How might your life become more integrated with your beliefs?
- Read the quote below from Pastor Jacob. How does this view of time impact your understanding of God's speed in responding to our condition?

"...matter/creation coexists with time, which means you can't have time without created things/matter. Time is meaningless outside of created things and space. And so, if we believe that Jesus comes before everything that is created, He also comes before all of time. That means as we struggle with time, we have a God that is before all time, is over all time, and miraculously, steps into our time. This is why there will, of course, be moments when we don't really understand everything that is going on with the timing of our life. Because we aren't God. So instead of paying attention to all the faults in our timing—long times and wrong times—we pay attention to the one who is over time. What is he asking us? Do you want to get well?"

The timing will not always make sense. But if you trust Jesus, you can trust the timing. Because Jesus is before time and over time, AND in our time."