

Do you want to change?

1. Why did the sick hang around Bethesda? How would you describe the atmosphere of such a place?
2. How would you describe the lame man?
3. What are some “spiritual ills” that people may carry with them for years? How does God’s mercy apply to these people? What are signs that they truly want to be “made well”?
4. What was the purpose of the Sabbath (see Exodus 23:12)? Why do you think Jewish leaders were bothered by the man’s actions?
5. The Jews seemed unconcerned that the man was made whole. What does this say about their view of mercy? What should be *our* view of mercy?
6. What are some ways that we as a church, or this specific ENCORE group, can be involved in showing mercy to others?

John 5:1-16 ¹After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

⁷The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” ⁹And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

¹¹He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”

¹²Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴Afterward 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.”

¹⁵The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

He Shall Be Called "Jesus"

Read: John 5:16-47

Monday

16-18 — What two things were the Jews willing to persecute and kill Jesus for? What did Jesus say that made them so angry? What is your response to those who say that Jesus never claimed to be God? What are some attitudes toward Jesus at Christmas time?

Tuesday

19-23 — What is the relationship between the Father and the Son? How do you think the Jews received this bit of information? Do you think most people today understand Who Jesus really is? How do they water down His role around this time of year?

Wednesday

24-30 — What position did the Father give Jesus? What was Jesus' goal? Describe your dependency upon the Father.

Thursday

31-36 — Who else gave witness of Jesus? What else gives witness of Jesus? How are *you* a witness or "light" for Jesus? What are some ways you can be that light during the holiday season?

Friday

37-43 — Can a person search the Scriptures and not find truth? What do they need to find? What were the Jews lacking? What would the Jews rather believe?

Saturday

44-47 — What were the Jews caught up in? Does receiving honor from others affect your life? How?

Research places where Moses talked about Jesus in the Old Testament. What are some Old Testament prophesies concerning the birth of Jesus?
