

**Answering Jesus: Do You Wish to Get Well?***John 5*

John 5 poses the question to each of us, “Do you wish to get well?” What would you say to that question? And as you think about it, what is your greatest felt need that you would like to have made well? Is it a medical issue or some kind of addiction? Maybe it is financial, or a strained relationship that dominates your thoughts and emotions. Jesus cares about each of these needs. But Jesus also looks to our deepest needs and He wants to “make us well” in a comprehensive way. May this study encourage each of us to look to Jesus to make us well in every sense of the word!

**Opening Discussion:** What is one of your greatest felt needs right now?

**Read John 5:1-18**

**Note from Steve’s sermon:** If you are reading from the NIV, you don’t have the end of verse 3 or any of verse 4 in your translation. The NASB includes them but puts them in brackets to denote that these sentences are not included in the earliest (and best) manuscripts. This is probably an explanation that was added long after John wrote this account to explain the man’s mindset.

1. Try to put yourself in the invalid man’s situation. What is life like for you? What do you experience day in and day out?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why do you think that in reply to Jesus’ question this man didn’t simply say, “yes”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Typically, when Jesus heals people He commends their faith. He doesn’t do that here. In fact, He simply heals this man. What does this reveal about Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do you think the point is of what Jesus says to the man in verse 14? What kind of worse thing could possibly happen to this man if he didn’t stop sinning?

Steve said:

What we see here is that Jesus did meet the man's greatest "felt need" by healing him physically. But Jesus continued to pursue him so that he might experience wholeness in a rather comprehensive sense. The same thing is true today. We can usually name our most pressing felt need: I need God to heal a relationship; I need God to heal me emotionally; I need God to provide for me financially. God cares about those things. But He wants to do so much more; He wants to bring us wholeness in ways we cannot anticipate. This means that we should answer the question, "Do you wish to get well?" by saying something along the lines of, "Yes, because You died and rose again, because You are the great Physician, because You are the Shepherd of my soul, please make me well in every way that You desire."

5. Surely each of us would want to say, "yes," to having our greatest felt need "made well." Is it also your desire to allow Jesus to make you well in a comprehensive sense? Explain.
6. As you think about areas in your life in which you need to be "made well" (areas of sin, brokenness, hurt, sickness, etc.), how do you typically address them? Do you typically come to Jesus with childlike trust, or do you more often try to figure a way to make your situation better on your own? Explain.
7. Why are we so slow at times to simply trust Jesus with our issues?
8. What is the main thing that you sense God is saying to you through this study?