

Signs (miracles) in John's Gospel are intended to point beyond the situation to greater realities found in Jesus. In these verses, we have 2 scenes and 2 signs.

Scene 1: John 4:43-54

Observations:

- Location – Cana where Jesus performed His 1st sign
- People involved – Royal official, his dying son, Jesus
- The situation – The royal official

What do we learn about humanity (What do I learn about myself?):

What do we learn about Jesus:

What does this sign point us to:

- Our human limitations will reveal what we believe about Jesus.
- Belief is demonstrated in obeying Jesus' words.

Questions for reflection:

- What authority do Jesus' words/the Bible have in my life?
- Will I still believe Jesus if His words don't align with my plans?

Scene 2: John 5:1-18

Observations:

- Location – Jerusalem, the pool of Bethesda (House of Grace/Mercy)
- People involved – Paralyzed man, Jesus, Pharisees
- The situation – Jesus heals the paralyzed man on the Sabbath

What do we learn about humanity (What do I learn about myself?):

What do we learn about Jesus:

What does this sign point us to:

- Our greatest need for healing is spiritual. Everything else points us to that.
- Jesus is God and as such, has authority over our traditions.

Question for reflection:

- Do I want to be healed?
- Is the posture of my heart to celebrate the movement of God or to protect my traditions?

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

- How are you growing through this Lenten season? What is God showing you about yourself and about Him? How are you learning to surrender and draw strength from God?

Looking up:

Read John 4:43-5:18 Then, have someone summarize these stories in their own words.

Where do you see yourself most in these 2 accounts (read above)? Of what you learn about Jesus, what stands out to you most and why?

Choose one/a few of these other examples of God healing people in the Bible and discuss how these relate to John 4-5. (1 Kings 17:10-24; 2 Kings 5; Matthew 9:20-22; Acts 3)

Thinking back to times when you or a loved one has needed healing of some sort, how did that situation challenge/develop your faith? (*This will be addressed more in next Sunday's sermon)

Pray: Spend time praying for: (A) For what God exposed in your heart that needs to be surrendered to Him (B) Those around you who are facing situations beyond their control. May they turn to Jesus and listen to His voice

Looking forward:

- What step of obedience is Jesus challenging you to take and how can we pray for and support you?