

Date: **January 10, 2021**

Title: **Changed By God's Grace**

Scripture Text: **John 5:1-17**

We conclude our look at the miracles of Jesus as recorded by the Apostle John in his gospel. Today's sermon looks at the story of a man who experiences God's amazing grace first-hand. Let us look at the five scenes of the man changed by God's grace.

I. The Location ([John 5:1-4](#))

We find large numbers of people with various illnesses lingering by the 'pool of Bethesda'. Tradition held that the pool had special healing powers. They placed their hope for healing in this tradition.

- **What are examples of traditions people observe or place importance in today?**
- **What is the potential danger of traditions?**
- **What are traditions you may cling to?**
 - **How might tradition interfere with your relationship with Jesus?**

II. The Desperation ([John 5:5](#))

The text shifts focus to a specific man who had been disabled for 38 years. He continued day after day to wait for the waters of the pool to be stirred in hopes he would be the first into the water and be healed. Verse 7 describes how no one would help the man, and by himself, he was unable to be healed. He was desperate!

- **What does it typically take for someone to become desperate?**
- **Does it sometimes take desperate times for God to get our attention?**
- **How can you be more available to help those who are desperate, both physically and spiritually?**

III. The Initiation ([John 5:6](#))

Jesus saw the man and knew his situation and his need. Jesus also knows our situation and our needs.

- **Describe the assurance we have that God knows where we are and what we need?**
- **What are areas in your life you need to do a better job of trusting God?**

IV. The Invitation ([John 5:6](#))

Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?". Jesus knew the need, yet He was giving the man the choice to receive His healing. He asks us the same question, and we have the same choice.

- **Describe a similar scenario, from a spiritual perspective, that might happen today. Why would someone reject Jesus' offer to 'get well'?**
- **How can you help someone else see the value of accepting Jesus' offer and the benefits of being 'well'?**

V. The Transformation ([John 5:8-9](#))

Jesus gave the man three things to do: 1) 'Get up' (change the way you're living, live according to Jesus' enabling), 2) 'Pick up your mat' (don't go back to your flesh-driven ways), 3) 'Walk' (exercise your new life).

- **How do these three things apply to a new convert? To a maturing Christian?**
- **What role do Christians have to come along side one another to encourage and edify them to follow these steps?**

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