

Discovering Hope

John 5:1-15

How can we honestly say that we are entirely ready for God to remove our defects of character? If we think in terms of all or nothing, we may get stuck here because we will never feel entirely ready. It is important to keep in mind that the Twelve Steps are guiding ideals. No one can work them perfectly. Our part is to keep moving, to get as close as we can to being ready.

In Jesus' day there was a pool where people went, hoping to experience miraculous healing. "One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, 'Would you like to get well?' 'I can't, sir,' the sick man said, 'for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.' Jesus told him, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!' Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!" (John 5:5-9).

This man was so crippled that he couldn't go any farther on his own. He camped as near as he could to a place where there was hope for recovery. God met him there and brought him the rest of the way. For us, "entirely ready" may mean getting as close to the hope of healing as we can in our crippled condition. When we do, God will meet us there and take us the rest of the way.

God’s Approval Is What Counts

John 5:41-44

Jesus called the Pharisees to task for being more concerned about what others thought of them than about what God thought. At times during recovery, it may be necessary to do things that are neither understood nor approved of by those around us. The bottom line for us is whether or not God approves of what we are doing, not what others think. As we take our moral inventory, God and his Word-not the opinions of others are the standards for our behavior. 201251

Channels of Grace

John 6:1-15

Jesus often used people as channels of his grace. In feeding 5,000 hungry men (plus women and children), Jesus used a young boy's provisions. In effecting our recovery-or others' recovery - God allows us to have a part in what he does. When we willingly dedicate our own small resources - time, talents, or possessions-to God, he can work a miracle of recovery for us and others. God can take our limited resources and multiply them beyond our wildest expectations.

Stay with Jesus

John 6:16-21

It was a dark and stormy night on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples were cold, wet, and exhausted from rowing almost four miles in storm-tossed waters. They had been impatient and left safe shores without Jesus, but he came to their rescue anyway-walking on the stormy sea toward their boat! When Jesus got in the boat, he brought them safely to shore. We would be wise to stay with Jesus and his plan for us. Going off on our own will inevitably lead us into some stormy situations When we leave Jesus behind, however, he will still rescue us if we look to him for help.

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES AND WORKS

Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry

Nathan and Alvin Luther — Philippines

Caleb Odle - Arlington, Texas

Ghana West Africa Water Project

Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durrës, Albania

What does John chapter 5 mean?

Chapter 5 presents John's first record of Jesus directly confronting His enemies. Most of this passage is taken up by the words of Christ Himself, responding to Jewish critics. Many of John's recurring themes are found in this passage. Among these are the miraculous "signs" of Jesus, His claims of divinity, and the warped perspective of those who reject Him. This chapter also continues John's frequent use of contrast. So far, John has described Jesus attending a quiet, friendly wedding, followed by His aggressive clearing of the temple (John 2). This public debacle was followed by a one-on-one conversation with Nicodemus (John 3). After speaking with the educated, confident, respected Nicodemus, Jesus is next seen speaking with the unlearned, outcast Samaritan woman (John 4). Jesus' miracles are also presented with a sense of contrast. When Jesus turned water into wine, it was practically a secret (John 2:9), and the couple who benefitted from it didn't even know it had happened. In the second "sign" John records, Jesus heals from a distance, for a man who went to great effort to seek out a miracle (John 4:46–54). Here, in chapter 5, Jesus will heal in person, for a man who wasn't really looking for anything in particular.

The Bible gives us limited details on the conversation Jesus has with the crippled man. However, it's interesting to see the man's response when Jesus asks about healing. Rather than saying, "yes, I want to be healed," he makes excuses about nobody helping him into the water. The same man, later, pushes blame for his breaking of the Sabbath on Jesus (John 5:1–11). And, he never seems to express any particular gratitude to Christ. Maybe he'd given up hope. Maybe we're just not told every detail. However, there are those who actually revel in their afflictions—they are a source of pity and emotional leverage against others. One wonders if the crippled man was in that category. We should note that there were many, many other people looking for healing at the pool that day. Jesus did not heal every single one of them. This is a reminder that miracles were not the real purpose of His ministry. And, they are not the real purpose of our Christian lives. True miracles, the "signs" John records in this book, are extremely rare and unexpected events.

When John uses the phrase "the Jews," he typically means the religious leadership of Jerusalem. In this case, the Jews seem more upset that Jesus has disturbed the Sabbath than amazed at His miracle! They also object to Jesus' claiming to be equal to God. This will become a major accusation used against Him at His sham trial, later in this Gospel (John 5:12–18). Jesus' response in this chapter comes in two major parts. First, He describes the authority which He was been given by God (John 5:19–29). In doing so, Jesus lays claim to many of the same rights, attributes, and abilities as God. Jesus claims equality with God in works (John 5:19), in love (John 5:20), in judgment (John 5:22), and in honor (John 5:23). He also points out that eternal life comes only to those who believe in Him (John 5:23–24). Jesus' words foreshadow the resurrection of Lazarus, as well as the final resurrection of all men (John 5:28–29).

In the second part of Jesus' response, He focuses on evidence (John 5:30–47). This is a crucial passage to turn to when dealing with accusations of "blind faith." Jesus never says, "believe Me because I said so." Nor does He appeal to mystery, or sincerity, or tradition. Rather, Jesus gives three specific lines of evidence which prove the truth of His claims. These are human witness (John 5:33), the miracles He is performing (John 5:36), and the written Scriptures (John 5:39). According to Jesus, these all point to Him as the fulfillment of prophecy.

Jesus closes this discussion with an interesting point. Namely, that those who won't accept the message of the written Word aren't going to come to faith, no matter what. The Pharisees had extensive knowledge of the Scriptures, but rejected Jesus in favor of their own traditions (John 5:39–47). This echoes the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. There, Christ also points out that even miracles cannot convince those who reject the written words which God has given (Luke 16:27–31).

## CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building

April 2<sup>nd</sup> **Family Day & Potluck** - We ask all our Idaho Falls family to attend a potluck and family meeting after worship services. The leadership will discuss a variety of topics and answer any questions the family may have. A box and forms have been provided on the foyer table to ask questions or make comments in advance.

April 15<sup>th</sup> **Senior Breakfast** 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.)

May 18-20<sup>th</sup> **Montana Men's Retreat:** "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19. See Bob Queenan with questions.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> **Family Days in the Park** – Games, picnics, and fun - 11 to 7 - Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)

June 4<sup>th</sup> **Family Days in the Park** – Worship, then a potluck, then games and fun – 10:30 to 5:30 – Sunnyside Park

## PRAYERS

- For Gary Brush and for Melanie. Gary came through his surgery well and is resting at home. Their address is 3461 Rosewood St., Kingman, AZ 86401.
- For Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- For Bobbie Knight. Bobbie Knight, IDOC # 113912, PWCC - 2 C, 1451 Fore Rd, Pocatello 83204.
- For Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- For Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces. Jordan would appreciate letters of encouragement: Jordan Allbritten, 5013 A, Fort Sill, OK 73503.
- For our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

## LEADERSHIP

Web Page: [idahofallschurchofchrist.org](http://idahofallschurchofchrist.org)

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Doug Barber – Worship		208-589-3674
Aaron Kays – Building & Grounds		505-879-4624
Daniål King – Benevolence		208-970-5078
Les & Teresa Pope – Special Programs		208-524-0238

# The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

April 2, 2023

## Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



### Meditation for Today

It is the quality of my life that determines its value. In order to judge the value of a person's life, we must set up a standard. The most valuable life is one of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love. All people's lives ought to be judged by this standard in determining their value to the world. By this standard, most of the so-called heroes of history were not great men. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, if he lose his own soul?"

I pray that I may be honest, pure, unselfish, and loving. I pray that I may make the quality of my life good by these standards.

Online Bulletin is available at our website <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>

