

We are in a series studying Jesus' use of signs in John's gospel that will allow us to discover the power of God and point us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. Last week Dr. Baucom focused on Jesus as the **Lord of Life**. This week we look at the second sign pointing toward Jesus as being the **Lord of Health**.

1. This week as you have reflected on Jesus & the way he performed signs, have you formed any questions you might want to ask Jesus about why he chose to perform signs for the people?

- How might the signs he performed have positive effects on Jesus' ministry?
- Do you see any negative effects performing signs might have had for Jesus' ministry?

Jesus has returned to Jerusalem from Galilee, where he demonstrated his first two signs by turning the water into wine and healing the son of the official.

2. **Read John 5:1-17.** The title of this week's sermon is "*Lord of Health*."

- Why do you think Dr. Baucom chose that title for this passage?
- How does this sign show Jesus as having power over health?

3. **Reread John 4:53.** What similarities and differences do you see in the progression of faith of the official whose son was healed and in the actions of the healed man in the current story?

4. The conclusion of **verse 3, and verse 4**, are not found in many manuscripts nor are they found in some English translations of the Scripture. They refer to a tradition that when the waters were disturbed, the first person to enter the pool would be healed. This explains why a number of persons suffering from a variety of disabilities would gather at the pool and also relates to the man's response in **verse 7** to Jesus' question in **verse 6**.

- In our present day, in what ways do we see people seeking supernatural physical healing?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed?
- Did the man really answer Jesus' question?

5. In **verses 9-12**, what is the issue of interest to the leaders? **Read Nehemiah 13:19 and Jeremiah 17:21-23** to find some background on the restriction from carrying loads on the Sabbath.

6. **Reread verses 13 and 15.** Notice that the man did not even know who Jesus was at the time he was healed.

- What do these verses say about the need for belief in who Jesus is in order to experience his power?
- What does it say about this man's faith at this time?

7. In **verse 14**, Jesus tells the man to "stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." **Read Mark 2:1-12 and John 9:1-5** to find other times when the relationship between sin and disability is discussed during Jesus' ministry.

- Why do you think "bad things happen to good people?"
- What "something worse" might Jesus be referring to? See also **Matthew 10:28**.

8. Simple Questions:

- What might we learn about human nature from this *sign*?
- What might this *sign* tell us about our common needs?
- What is this *sign* telling us about Jesus?

Last Thursday was the National Day of Prayer. Did you know this? If so, talk about how you recognized it, any special prayer you participated in, the prayers of your heart. If not, what would you have wanted to share with God?