

07

JOHN 5:5-16

LORD OVER SICKNESS



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

God's law is important, and following His design for all things is ultimately life-giving. However, sometimes we can become so focused on the rules that we completely miss the One who made the rules. Sometimes we can become so obsessed with following the rules that we make extra rules to keep ourselves from ever breaking the real rule. Today we'll read about Jesus's miraculous healing of a man who'd been paralyzed for decades. But God's people didn't rejoice. All they could see were the ways this healing seemed to violate the law—or at least the extra rules they had added to the law. They could have been celebrating life, but instead, they were obsessing over a very narrow understanding of law. They could have been worshiping the Messiah, but instead they wanted to hunt Him down.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus has compassion for the sick and authority over sickness.



EXPLORE

scripture

JOHN 5:5-16

JOHN 5:5-9a

5 One man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to get well?” 7 “Sir,” the disabled man answered, “I have no one to put me

into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.” 8 “Get up,” Jesus told him, “pick up your mat and walk.” 9a Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.

JOHN 5:9b-13

9b Now that day was the Sabbath, 10 and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.” 11 He replied, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat

and walk.’” 12 “Who is this man who told you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk?’” they asked. 13 But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

JOHN 5:14-16

14 After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” 15 The man went

and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 5:21

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READ-



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 5:1-9

DWELL



In Genesis 1, God created the world with His words. How does this narrative remind you of that?



How is Jesus different from the other people this man had likely encountered in his life?

It's hard to imagine a more hopeless situation: a man who is unable to walk desperately strives to be the first in the water because he believes in a superstition. Yet it's in this hopeless situation that the man encountered the One who could rescue him, not just from his bodily brokenness but from his soul's brokenness! When Jesus tells sickness to leave, it does—and when Jesus says our sins are forgiven, they truly are.

MEMORIZE

Write out John 5:21 on a piece of paper, “taking a picture” of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

PRAY

Praise God for His compassion and His authority over sickness of all kinds! If there are places where you need healing of body or soul, ask Him to heal you if it is according to His good will.

day 2

JOHN 5:10-18

DWELL

When we think about God, many times we think of Him as a grumpy principal who loves order and rules more than He loves people. Yet we see a reversal of this in Scripture: God's people were the ones obsessed over order and rules, going beyond the law that God had given and creating even more rules. Meanwhile, God compassionately desired to offer rescue from brokenness—both physical and spiritual.



How does this text challenge your view of God?



How does this text challenge your view of how you should treat others?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 5:21 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Confess times when you've cared more about rules than you did about people. Thank God for times when He's shown compassion to others through you.

day 3

JOHN 5:19-29

DWELL

There were lots of people who were suffering at Bethesda, and yet, we don't see evidence that Jesus healed anyone other than this one man. Why? Jesus's words to the religious crowd are helpful here, even though they had a slightly different concern. They wondered why Jesus didn't submit to the laws they'd created. In response, Jesus was clear that He was interested in doing God the Father's will—not theirs. Jesus gives life according to God's will (see v. 21), yet at the same time, those who believe receive eternal life (see v. 24).



What questions does this text bring to your mind?



How might this text impact your prayers to God?

MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 5:21 from memory twice.

PRAY

Tell God the things about His Word and His will that confuse you. Ask Him to place people in your life who can help you wrestle wisely with the Scriptures.

day 4

JOHN

5:30-38

DWELL

Jesus's Jewish audience was infuriated with Him because He claimed to be God. Who was He to make such a blasphemous claim? So, Jesus did what you might see in a courtroom: He presented evidence that proved it. (As if the healing itself wasn't enough!) The first piece of evidence was John the Baptist. John had testified about Jesus's true identity. The second piece of evidence was Scripture. This crowd likely knew God's Word, and yet, they couldn't spot God's Word made flesh! It all pointed to Jesus, but they couldn't see Him for who He was.



Look back at John 1:6-8. How does today's text remind you of what John the Apostle wrote about John the Baptist?



How is it possible to know God's Word yet not really understand God's Word? Why does this happen?

MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 5:21 from memory as you can.

PRAY

Thank God for who He is and ask Him to help you believe it in a deeper way.

day 5

JOHN

5:39-47

DWELL

Jesus spoke sharply to this religious crowd. They believed they'd fully grasped God's Word, and yet, God's love was not in them. They believed they knew God, yet they didn't recognize God when He was standing in the flesh, right in front of them. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus has strong words for the religious, accusing them of seeking after their own glory instead of God's! Jesus was clear: God was not fooled by their "perfect" outsides. It was clear they didn't truly believe.



How did this verse offer a challenge for John's original readers? How does it challenge you?



How can Jesus's words here inform your prayers?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 5:21 somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

PRAY

Ask God to show you places where you're putting on a religious show rather than genuinely believing in Him.