

GOD STEPS IN, EVERYTHING CHANGES

August 28, 2016 John 5:1-18 by Bob Branch
Believing Into Life, Part 15

BIG IDEA: God stepped outside the religious box, and into our suffering, into our sin, and into our empty religion and asks a question, rather than wags a finger. *“Do you want to get well?”* and maybe, *“How’s that working for you?”*

IDEAS: 1) Jesus is in complete sync with his Father/God and what he’s doing; 2) God is working on the Sabbath; 3) the Father is doing healing in the midst of crazy suffering (intervening, but not restoring everything).

⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

“Do you want to get well?”

We can be defined by our brokenness.

1. **God steps into our SUFFERING and asks a question: “Do you want to get well?”**

⁷ “no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred”

He trusts all kinds of things besides God: legend, religion, meds & medicine, science, people, therapy...

⁸ “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured...

POINT: Jesus himself, and the work, are demonstrations of He and His Father working completely in sync, Father and Son. What you see in Jesus on earth is the heart of heaven manifested. You are seeing God at work. (Heb. 11:3; Jn. 10:30; 14:9; Col. 1:15, 19)

“It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

Police-state religion!

¹¹ “He who made me well...”

Jesus is working, but we don’t always know it until later.

¹⁴ “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

Sin always has consequences, and always makes us sick in some way!

2. **God steps into our SIN, calls it what it is, and challenges us out of it.** (Jn. 8:11)

¹⁷ “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” ...not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

God the Father is the One coloring outside the lines.

Jesus reveals he is also Equal with God

3. **God steps into our EMPTY-RELIGION and blows it up.**

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” **Matthew 11:28-30** Message