

God's Amazing Grace

Do you want
to be made well?

John 5:1-18

Receiving Grace Giving Grace

Receiving Grace Giving Grace

- » Fall series on God's amazing grace taken from a variety of texts
- » Beginning with a Gospel story – Jesus and the lame man at the pool of Beth-zatha (John 5:1-18)
- » The focus is Jesus' question: "Do you want to be well?"

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- » Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem and go to the pool of Beth-zatha
- » The pool is: by the Sheep gate, a pool with 5 porticoes and many infirmed around it
- » The pool was built over a natural spring with "healing waters" (v7)

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- » None of the infirmed are named – represent 'everyman/woman'
- » Jesus sees and knows them all with compassion (v6)
- » They represent the hopeless, helpless – people bound by their circumstances, resigned to their conditions in life

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- » The pool is to become a house of mercy – a house of grace
- » Jesus meeting the needs of the hurting of the world
- » Jesus reaching out to us in our needs

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Scene One:

Jesus & the man at Beth-zatha
(John 5:1-9)

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Poverty

- » The infirmed man is alone – no one to assist him
- » His mat (krabattos) is the mat of the poor
- » He represents the poor
- » He has been crippled for 38 yrs – waiting for healing at the pool

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The Infirmed Man

- » Plays the role of victim – ‘no one is here to help me’ (v7)
- » Unaware of who Jesus is – so focused on his own needs
- » Ungrateful – no thanks given to Jesus and later reports Jesus to the authorities

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Jesus' Gracious Response

Jesus asks the question: “Do you want to become well?” (v6)

The man replies “yes” (not “no”)

Jesus tells him to “Stand up, take your mat and walk” (v8)

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- » Immediately the man was made well (hygies) – used 5x in text (v6,9,11,14,15)
- » The man is called out of passivity into action
- » A miracle happens before our eyes

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The Key Question

“Do you really want to be changed? If in our inmost hearts we are well content to stay as we are there can be no change for us. The desire for the better things must be surging in our hearts.”

W. Barclay

- » This question speaks to our attachments, our addictions, our cravings
- » “But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:14-16)

- » We have to want to change – it is the core of repentance
- » This desire opens up the space for grace to function
- » Jesus responds with grace to the man’s desire for healing

Scene Two
*Jesus’ further interaction
 with the healed man*
 (John 5:10-18)

- » The authorities hassle the man – he is carrying his mat on the Sabbath (v10)
- » The man blames his healer (Jesus) for telling him to carry it (v11)

- » Jesus later seeks out the man in the crowds and cautions him to reflect upon his wellness and not step back into old patterns (v14)
- » Upon hearing these words he goes and tells the authorities that it was Jesus who healed him

Jesus Goes to the Man

- » Jesus' going to the man further presents his compassion and grace
- » Demonstrates that there is a more fundamental level of healing – deeper than our physical needs – it penetrates to our spiritual needs

- » This is a story about the compassion of Jesus and the grace that is demonstrated to every human
- » The recipient is a needy person who is flawed in many ways
- » The grace of God is offered to the frail and needy - we receive his love and tenderness as sinners saved by grace

Ask Yourself

Do I really want to be well?
If yes, why; if not why not?

If we desire wellness:

- » God's grace is sufficient to meet all our needs
- » The Holy Spirit will empower us to follow him as an "overcomer"
(1 John 5:5)