



DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Grace

Jesus
Forgiven
Saved

Everlasting

Unmerited

Gift
Life
Christ
Alone
Kindness

Repentance

Love

Favor

Gospel

Compassion

Faith

Amazing

Truth

Lord



John 5:1-3

“Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.”





John 5:5-9

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 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?”

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured: he





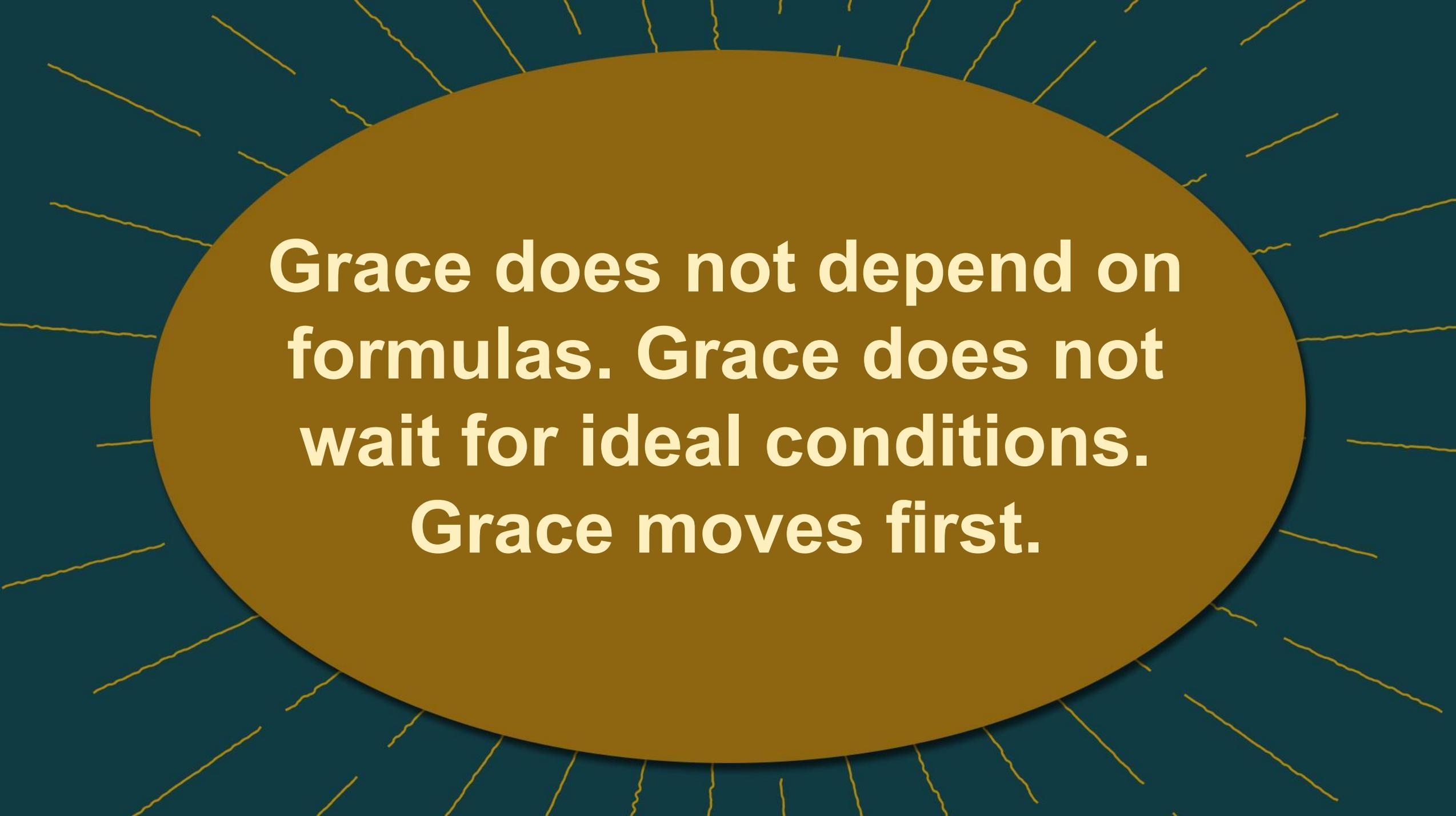
Psalm 34:18

“The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

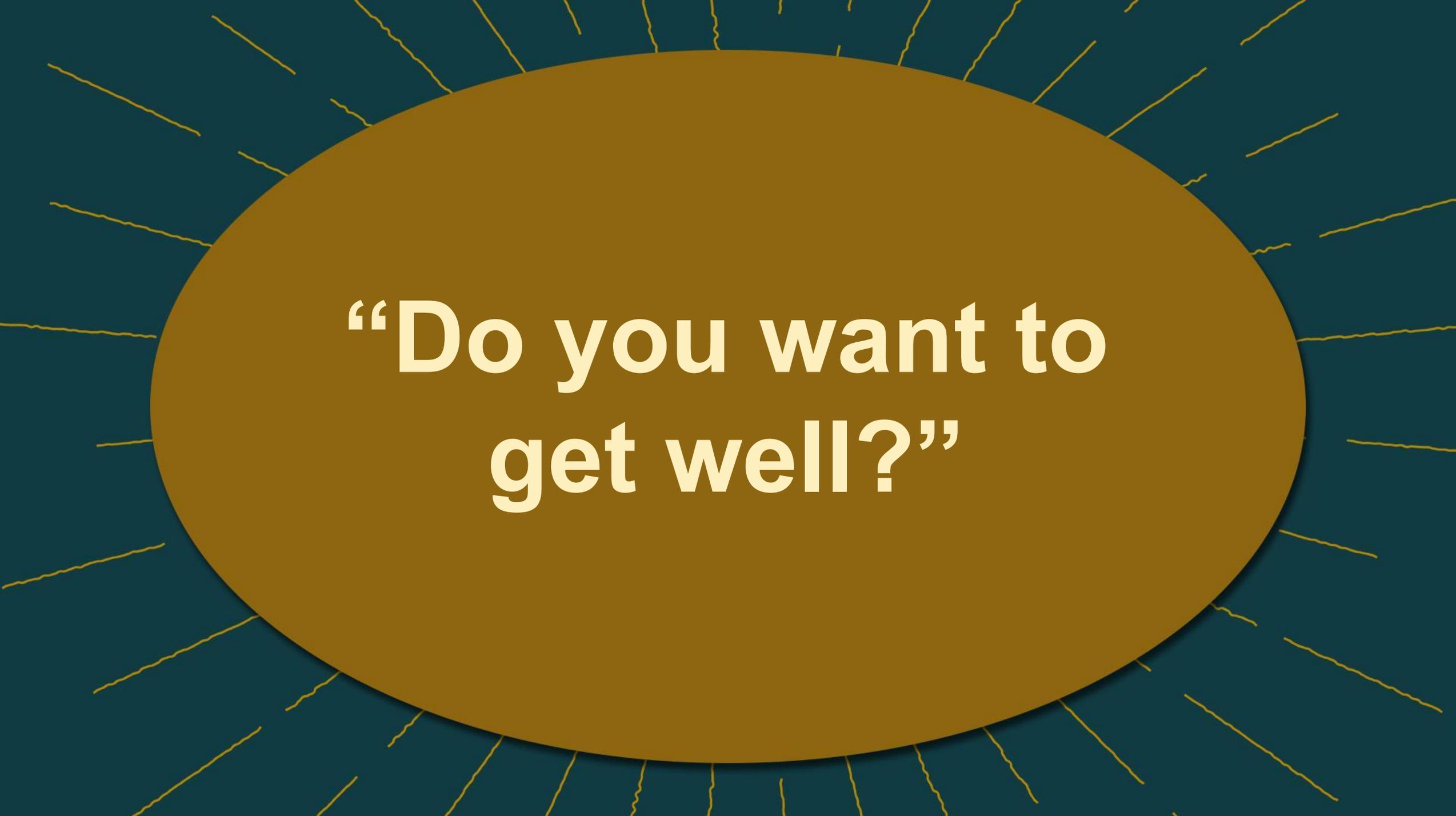




**Grace initiates
where effort has
failed.**



**Grace does not depend on
formulas. Grace does not
wait for ideal conditions.
Grace moves first.**



**“Do you want to
get well?”**

“The healing happens instantly, but the man is still called to respond and participate. Grace meets him in his weakness and then invites him to step forward and live in the new freedom he’s been given.”



Hebrews 12:11

“ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”



Today, Batoul has started a ministry supporting women like her – those who have been rejected and mistreated by their families because they choose to follow Jesus.



Grace invites us to participate in our own healing, and that participation can require obedience when it feels uncomfortable or risky.



**The question for us is the same:
Do you want to get well?**



- **Do you want freedom from old patterns, habits, and hurts?**
- **Do you want grace to disrupt the chains that bind you?**
- **Do you want Christ to do what your effort cannot?**

John 5:9-18

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there



Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath but he was even calling God his own





**Grace exposes
legalism.**

The most vicious people in the body of Christ are list-makers who can find no joy in another soul healed if it doesn't meet their rules. They wanted rules, not God's grace." - Donald Barnhouse





**Where are we looking with
judgement instead of
anticipation?**

“Grace calls us to shift our perspective: from measuring worth by appearances, rules, or performance, to rejoicing in every step someone takes toward life, toward God, and toward community.”



Micah 6:8

“And what does the Lord require of you?

**To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your
God.**



"Now, when Jesus did this miracle on the Sabbath and commanded the paralytic to carry his bed on the Sabbath, he widened the breach between the Pharisees and himself. At that time the Pharisees decided they were going to have to do away with Jesus. So humanly speaking, our Lord sealed his death warrant with this miracle. It sent him to the cross. He loved the paralytic that much. He loves



Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



SERMON RESOURCES

