

## ⑪ Gospel of John

### INTRODUCTION | Working Father

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There are 3 points we want to take from this section. First, our God is the living God working amongst us even now. Do not be deceived by the perceived silence of God, our Heavenly Father is at work here and now. Secondly, your deepest longings in Christ are being worked out even now. But, the workings of God, which are bringing about your good are done according to God's good pleasure and in his time. These things are not accomplished according to your plan. Thirdly, if all this is true our walk in faith should change to reflect our understanding and belief in the work of God here and now.

### SCRIPTURE | John 5:1-18

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2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic 1 called Bethesda,<sup>2</sup> which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.<sup>3</sup> 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God

### QUESTIONS |

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1: in verse 17 Jesus declares that God is at work even now. As we read this section of scripture, how can we see God alive and active? In light of God's work Consider the man who received healing and consider his actions after he was healed.

2: By Jesus' miraculous healing we see proof of the Father's work. But, the reality is we generally do not see the miraculous. Rather we generally encounter suffering and despair. Even though we do not see the miraculous now, how can we be sure of and say God is alive and at work?

Reference | I Packer.

3: Look at verses 6-9 and the interaction between Jesus and the sick man. In response to Jesus' question, how did the man answer? What did his answer reveal about his heart and circumstances?

4: Biblically, our heart's desire is to be healed and fulfilled by Jesus Christ. But, often our heart seems to be mistaken and rather than pull us toward Christ it pulls us away from him. Why does our heart lead us astray? What is the result of our heart leading us away from Christ?

5: Look at verses 10 and following. Here we see the lame man physically healed. What are the reactions to this healing? Why does reaction manifest itself?

6: according to Jesus what kind of life is the healed man supposed to walk in, in light of his healing? What part of this mans life was to change do you think?

## Reading (Reference) |

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### J I. Packet Concise Theology p.77

Providence, is The act of God creating and this same creating power of God continues even now. In this way, our creating Lord God's own heart continues to : (A) know each of his creations (b) effect and influence all things that happen (c) bring all things to there decided purpose and end.

## Prayers |

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We praise you our living and working father. Christ was a testimony and sign to your work. Knowledge of Christ is the fulfillment of our hearts truest desire. We praise and thank you our saving and healing Lord.

What is your hearts deepest desire? Is it Christ? If it is not, think about what has this place in your heart. It is union with Christ and his life, death and resurrection alone that can truly fulfill your hearts desire and need. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be making this a reality in your life.

## UPCOMING EVENTS |

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Leader's meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> March) lunchtime meetings (4th kasumigaseki, 5th Otemachi)  
Obento project (4th) Film and Discussion (7th) Crossroads bible study (8th)  
Grace City Gospel choir (9th) Community Group leader training (8th)  
College student volunteers in ishinomaki / Tohoku (9-12<sup>th</sup>)  
Lunch time meetings (11th Marunouchi, 12th Otemachi)

# COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

