

MAIN POINT

We are tempted to seek wholeness and healing in many places, but these are only found in Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

Consider the times in your life when you were called to help those in need. What prompted the call? How did you respond?

In John 5, Jesus sought out the opportunity to serve a man in need. Jesus not only healed the man of his physical suffering, but also redirected the man's focus on the source of eternal healing and eternal hope—God the Father. Though we often seek healing and wholeness in many ways, those things are only found in Jesus.

DISCUSSION

> READ JOHN 5:1-18.

Why do you think Jesus went out of His way to visit this particular place?

How was His decision to visit this place a statement to both His critics and His followers? What does this decision indicate to His followers today?

Why do you think the Scripture notes that Jesus "saw him"? In what ways do you think Jesus "saw" this man?

In what ways can we "see" someone beyond just merely locating them with our eyes?

Just before healing him, Jesus asked the man a question: "Do you want to be healed?" (v. 6). Why do you think Jesus asked the man this particular question?

What reasons does the man provide in response to Jesus' question? Why do you think he said what he did?

In what areas of life do we often misplace our faith or focus on solutions that do not address our real problem?

What are some tactics you use to refocus your attention on Jesus?

Why do you think the Jews in this passage were more focused on the man's carrying the mat on the Sabbath than they were on the fact that Jesus had healed them? What does their focus on the law rather than on the act of grace say about their understanding of God's character? What did Jesus' actions reveal about the Father?

APPLICATION

Where have you sought healing and wholeness apart from Jesus? What needs to change?