

JESUS' HELP FOR THE HOPELESS

John 5:1-14

Key verse 8

Discussion questions:

- What can we learn about Jesus' compassion for helpless people?
- What does Jesus' command "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk mean to you?"

Inductive study questions:

1. Describe the atmosphere at the pool of Bethesda, in contrast to the Jewish festival? What kind of hope can we find in such a place? (1-3)
2. Who caught Jesus' attention? (5) What does it mean that Jesus learned of his condition? Why might Jesus ask "Do you *want* to get well?" (6)
3. What does his response reveal about him? (7) What command did Jesus give? (8) How might this be a challenge for all of us? Think about what it means to walk. Why might Jesus have healed this particular man? (9)
4. What challenge did this man run into? (10-13) What needed to be changed in the man's heart? (14-15; cf. Lk 17:17-18; cf. Jn 9:30-34; 1Co 10:31) How did this healing challenge the religious legalism?