**“GET UP! PICK UP YOUR MAT AND WALK”**

John 5:1–15

Key Verse: 5:8

1. What was the occasion that brought Jesus to Jerusalem? Describe the pool of Bethesda (2–3). Why were these people not allowed into the other public bathing areas? Read the footnote and verse 4. What were these sick people hoping for? How is this scene a caricature of humanity?

2. What was this man’s ailment, and how long had he been like this? (5) How might he have been fatalistic? Why do you think that of all the people there, Jesus chose to help this man? How did it illustrate that he was “full of grace”? (1:14b,17) Read verse 6. Why would anyone not want to get well? How could Jesus’ question help him?

3. How did the man respond to Jesus’ question? (7) What were his two complaints? Why is complaining about our situation, making excuses or blaming others a spiritual sickness? In what ways might we be doing the same thing as this man?

4. Read verse 8. What can we learn here about the kind of life God wants us all to live? (cf. 2Co11:9; 1Th2:9) How do Jesus’ words to this invalid man this illustrate that he was “full of truth”? How could Jesus say this to him? (cf. Eph4:15a) How can we overcome ourselves and our situation and act based on Jesus’ words here?

5. What shows the power of Jesus’ word? (9a) How did people respond to the man’s healing, and why? (9b–10) What did he say to them? (11) How was this an evasion of responsibility? Why didn’t he know who Jesus was after he had healed him?

6. What did Jesus do and say? (14) What does “something worse” mean? What sin was this man committing? How did he respond? (15) What should we learn from this?