

## JOHN 5:1-18

### The Jesus People Met – The Invalid

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*'Bludgers' or 'Workaholics' – discuss which title best captures our nation's attitude towards work ...*

READ JOHN 5:1-18

1. Verse 1 begins with the words 'Some time later'. Give a rough account of what has happened since we last saw Jesus with the Samaritan Woman in 4:1-42.
2. The action in this passage revolves around the healing of a man who had been an invalid for 38 years. Why do you think Jesus asks the question he does in verse 6?
3. Are there any aspects of this physical healing which anticipate the kind of spiritual healing that Jesus came to bring?
4. Why were the Jewish leaders so hung up on the fact that this healing had happened on the Sabbath (v. 9)?
5. Verse 14 potentially raises the thorny question of the relationship between sin and sickness/suffering. Is there

ever a direct link between the two? c.f. Luke 13:1-15; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:30.

6. If v. 14 also contains an allusion to the final judgment, how does Jesus provide the answer to our utter inability to 'stop sinning' as he commands (c.f. vv. 19-30)?
7. How does Jesus' simple but profound statement in verse 17 shed light on the nature of the relationship between the Father and the Son, as well as the work they are doing in the world today?

**Application:** Like the man in the story, we have all been guilty of receiving God's undeserved favour while failing to know or acknowledge Jesus' name (v. 13). In what areas of life are we in need of repentance and a renewed spirit of thankfulness:

- As a nation?
- As individuals?
- As a church?

*Pray that God would mercifully restrain our nation from its slide into godlessness, idolatry and sin ... through the preaching of his Word and the outpouring of his Spirit across our land.*