


HEALING THE HOPELESS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


JOHN 5:1-18

1 **Upon arriving at Jerusalem, where does Jesus immediately go?** (John 5:1-6). What does this tell us about our Lord? What does Bethesda mean?

 *What does it mean to show mercy? Interact with the following texts in your answer: Matthew 5:7, Titus 3:5, Deuteronomy 4:31, James 2:13, 1 Peter 1:3.*

 *Is God spurring your heart to show mercy to particular people or people groups?*

2 **What reasons could the man have for NOT wanting to be completely healed?** Why, and in what ways, do we sometimes choose to stay in our own misery?

 *How has God brought healing and restoration into your life—physical, emotional and spiritual? Then think about the areas where you are still broken, hopeless or paralyzed. As you “lay” in that place imagine Jesus asking, “Do you want to get well?” Spend a few minutes thinking about your answer to this question and write down your thoughts.*


3 **Some have argued that if God could save everyone but chose only some, then He is unloving.** The same could be said here in John 5:1-18. Jesus could have healed all, but only chose one man. Was he unloving? How would you answer the charge?

4 Why is it important to affirm as Scripture does, that salvation is totally from the Lord and not a joint effort between Him and us?

 *How does the story in John 5:1-18 illustrate that truth?*

 *What is at stake in this discussion according to 1Corinthians 1:26-31?*

5 In John 5:3-7 the man didn't do anything to deserve to be healed: he didn't know who Jesus was, didn't have faith and didn't even ask to be healed. Yet despite the many other disabled people at the pool that day, why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man?

 *What does this show us about God's character?*

6 In the account of the healing at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5, the religious leaders come in conflict with Jesus. How does this illustrate one of the main differences between religion and biblical Christianity? Why is this distinction important?

7 Notice John 5:16-18. This bold claim to deity was not missed by the enemies of Jesus. Augustine wisely said of this passage: "Behold, the Jews understand what the Arians do not understand." Today, there are religious groups who hold the doctrines of the Arians, denying the deity of Jesus. How could you use Scripture to help someone understand Jesus' deity?

8 When Jesus healed the man physically, he left, but then he returned to find the man. Why did Jesus go find him and what is the significance of what he said to the man? (John 5:13-15)

PRAYER REQUESTS
