

**A Journey with John | “Do You Want to Get Well?” | Pastor Craig Lawrence |  
Sunday, April 14th, 2024**

Worship Leader: Mike Gerbrandt led everyone in praise of God’s Goodness and Greatness.

Worship song #1: “*In the River*” sang “There’s a river where goodness flows, a fountain that drowns sorrow, an ocean deeper than fear. There’s a current stirring deep inside, overflowing from the Heart of God. Bursting, bursting up from the ground, we feel it now. We come alive in the River.”

Worship song #2: “*Goodness of God*” sang “All my life You’ve been faithful and so, so good to me. With every breath that I’m able, I’ll sing of the Goodness of God. I love You Lord, Your mercy never fails, all my days are held in Your Hands. I’ll sing of Your Goodness.”

Worship song #3: “*Great is Thy Faithfulness*” sang “Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see, all I need, thy Hand has provided. Summer, winter, spring, and harvest, sun, moon, stars, join with nature to singing Great is Thy Faithfulness, Mercy and Love.”

Worship song #4: “*I’m a Lover of Your Presence*” sang “It’s all I want to be, I was made for Love, made for loving You. I’m a lover of Your Presence and it’s all I want to be. You’re all that satisfies, we are lovers of Your Presence, it’s all we want to be.”

Pastor Doug followed worship with prayers focused from *Hebrews 10*. We come into a new living way with access to the Father because of Jesus. We praise You Lord over and over. Today, we love You and honor Your model of prayer life that delivers transformation. God is always good, today we pause to praise You! Amen. Pastor Doug shared that May 2 is the National Day of Prayer. Everyone is welcome to join in prayer here at church. Life Groups will also be in attendance.

Announcements were led by Danielle Lein who shared video details hosted by Elizabeth, Julianna, and Joy. They shared about our church resource *MealTrain*. This ministry shares meals for those with needs after special events like illness. Sign up at the website or in the foyer. Next, all Mom’s were invited to a special *Mother’s Day Brunch* on May 7 hosted by Sue Bolt. The next Prime Time event is May 15 hosted by *AgingNext*. Come learn about resources available to assist in the aging process. Danielle shared that God is faithful. She shared her sister’s testimony about God’s Faithfulness where she worked and her sister’s faithfulness to tithes and offerings. Danielle shared *Ps. 37:46* that focuses on delighting in God’s Love.

***There are many components in today’s sermon. It is highly recommended to watch Pastor Craig’s sermon video for his detailed presentation. There are several slides that focus on God’s Word to spend time reading and meditating upon. As well, there are sermon segments that highlight the impact of prayer using the model provided by Jesus.***

1. Pastor Craig opened today's sermon in *John 5:1-15*, entitled ***Do You Want to Get Well?*** It's from our series *A Journey with John*.

Firstly, he shared about the need of volunteers for the upcoming *Skillz Camp*. There's a video that shares the activities inside the Camp. Pastor Craig encouraged volunteers to share their skills or just serve to demonstrate God's Love for children.

Pastor Craig prayed and invited the Lord to become a larger part of each person's life. He invited Him to become ***BIG*** and ***Influential*** in each person's life.

He reviewed the first 4 chapters of John that have been completed. He shared that in the book of John, *Jerusalem* is the main location for each of the chapters.

**Chapter 1:** John sets the tone by teaching that Jesus and the Father were co-creators of our universe. *In the Beginning* is introduced.

**Chapter 2:** Jesus turns water to wine, His first miracle. He cleanses the temple and does signs, wonders, and miracles.

**Chapter 3:** Nicodemus meets with Jesus to hear about the Good News. He wanted a deeper relationship with Jesus in response to His miracles.

**Chapter 4:** Jesus focuses on those rejected by the Jewish leadership. He loves us and models Love for the outcasts then and now. Jesus is our model for loving others.

***His Love is action based.***

**Chapter 5:** This chapter shifts to an official period of time focused on accusations from the Jewish leaders toward Jesus. They begin to challenge and question Jesus.

***Share your experiences and testimony how Jesus loved you despite the world's rejection of you. As taught in Chapter 4 He reached out to those experiencing rejection from the world. How does the Love of Jesus nourish you to know that you are extremely valuable in God's eyes?***

2. Pastor Craig included 9 Slides to share the first 15 verses in John 5.

Slide 1, vv 1-3 introduced that Jesus is at a festival. He's at the Sheep Gate Pool where numerous disabled people lie waiting for being healed. The disabled included those who were blind, paralyzed, or lame.

Pastor Craig shared that Jesus always attended festivals. He shared that we bring Jesus wherever we may go and are empowered to bring the message of healing from Jesus. Pastor Craig shared that many believe that He won't use us to deliver the miracles. Our church offers numerous classes to activate or empower the healing empowerment from the Holy Spirit.

Slide 2 vv 4-6 teaches that the disabled gathered around the pool water. If they saw the water being stirred by an angel of the Lord, then it was a signal to get in the water to experience healing.

Jesus sees an individual who has been waiting for 38 years. He asks the man if he wants healing.

He specifically asks~***Do you want to be well?***~

In the Greek, the word *well* is (***whole***) that would encompass physical, emotional, and spiritual. Pastor Craig shared that the man may have been offended by the obvious state he was in and still be asked if he wanted to be healed or well. He may have thought, is this a trick question?

Pastor Craig shared that we're often offended by things Jesus instructs us to engage. Jesus stirred up ***HOPE*** in the hopelessness of the man.

***Share your testimony how Jesus stirred up HOPE in your life after experiencing the hopelessness of not having a relationship with Him. Has He asked you if you want to be well or whole?***

3. Pastor Craig next shared Slide 3, v7. The hopelessness of the man caused him to reply to Jesus that no one helped him when the water stirred and or others got ahead of him.

In Slide 4, vv 8-9, Jesus looks at him and says ***GET UP!*** At that command, the man was able to get up and walk. The man relied on the natural to try getting into the water but Jesus did the supernatural. The man didn't know Jesus, nor that He was the Healer of the world and God in the flesh.

Pastor Craig reflectively asked ***do you want healing or to get well*** emotionally, physically, or spiritually? Jesus says ***GET UP***. We're to follow His model and to take Jesus everywhere we go. We're to be expectant and prepared for giving healing in Jesus' Name.

***This event of healing for the man occurred on the Sabbath.***

In Slide 5, v 10, Pastor Craig shared that the Jewish leaders watching Jesus stepped in to declare it was unlawful for the man on the Sabbath to carry his mat.

In Slide 6, v 11, the man responds by saying Jesus instructed him to carry it upon being healed. Pastor Craig shared that ***OPPOSITION*** always follows restoration and healing.

In our contemporary time it may be our self lack of belief that healing isn't a personal gift we are called to exercise. Pastor Craig reflectively shared that the American church today has a great focus on opposing much of the command to heal. Despite that we called to action.

***Share your experiences with healing, ones that have been answered, and the ones still yet answered.***

4. Pastor Craig shared Slide 7, v 12 that shows the leaders now asking the healed man who exactly commanded him to carry his mat. Slide 8, v 13 shares that Jesus had departed by then. Slide 9, v 14 teaches that the two meet again and Jesus urges him to recognize his healing and restoration and to cease sinning to avoid more complications. Slide 10, v 15, teaches that the man hears it was Jesus who had performed the miracle and reports Him to the leaders.

Pastor Craig shared that in this scripture portion, Jesus is confronted by a *demonic religious spirit and attitude*. In our contemporary time, we often hear that healing others is not for today's church to exercise. Opposition states that healing is for the time of Jesus only.

Pastor Craig shared that Jesus Loves **follow up** as seen in Slide 11, vv 14-15. Jesus Loves you and desires to follow up to make sure you are OK. Jesus urges the man to stop sinning. We're to invite Jesus to be a **BIG** part of our lives. Whatever we're stuck in **behaviorally**, we're invited to be within reach of His Love and Grace.

***Share what BIG means within your life? How would you teach the concept to a new believer?***

5. Pastor Craig allowed for a couple of minutes for everyone to meditate quietly on where you want healing to occur within your life this next week. It could be financial, physical, emotional, or spiritual. Invite Jesus to show you where to heal. Invite God to become **BIGGER** in your life. He's not a tiny God.

Next, Pastor Craig read *Matthew 26:36-38* that teaches the Lord Jesus in prayer mode. Here is where the humanity of Jesus experiences agony and is overwhelmed. Jesus faces a crisis and reaches for *prayer as a model for us to practice*.

He brings the disciples. He invites three of them to accompany Him not far from the group. This personal prayer time is part of the healing process. Pastor Craig shared that it is a model for being in community with our prayer needs, using Jesus as our model.

Pastor Craig shared vv 40-41 that teaches to not cut off God from prayer time. Keep focused on God, keep praying, persevere despite not having an answer. *Our model Jesus teaches perseverance*.

Next, Pastor Craig shared *Luke 22:42-44* that despite the anguish Jesus experienced, nevertheless, He persevered. ***He'll strengthen you in your most challenging parts of life.***

Pastor Craig shared Slide pictures of the time he had shingles using before and after pictures. He shared the results of prayer while in the electronic process while he was in isolation. Jesus healed Pastor Craig much faster than the expected recuperation time. Pastor Craig urged perseverance by inviting Jesus to Heal. Amen..

***Share experiences of prayers that have been answered, and those still yet to be answered.***

***What have you learned about perseverance from these experiences?***

***How do use the phrase: Do you want to get well with someone who has yet experienced healing?***