

JOHN 5:1-18

THE LIFE-GIVER

Rugby.

Why Stu asked me to preach.

Tanz. new President.

What will he be like?

1st cent. Jewish question — what would the Christ be like and who would he be?

John's purpose is to help us see that.

In this chapter - we see he's the life-giver.

EP#1—a Compassionate Word

5:1-5 Setting. Jerusalem. Pool. history. Google it.

Many Sick. Believed water able to help. v.7

Many sick. Focus on One man

38 yrs sick. no one to help him in.

Alone. Helpless. Disabled.

38 yrs a long time. Mum's on hip surgery waiting list.

6 Jesus asks him; do you **want** to be healed. or 'made whole'.

Man doesn't really answer.

But Jesus makes him well

just by speaking.

v.8-9a

to note

1 Jesus has **COMPASSION** on him.

He **loves** him. Reaches out to him in his weakness when he was alone and in need.

The man is alone; helpless; unable.

Jesus makes him whole again.

can you see his compassion?

2 the **WATER**. Water's a big idea in john's gospel.

remember — the water in the ceremonial pots at the wedding; turned into wine.

to compare the old religious ways with the new kingdom

Jesus brings of a new and completely better type.

— the samaritan woman at Jacob's well having to come for water again and again,

but Jesus offers a new type of water which truly satisfies.

— now we see the superstition replaced by a genuine healing by the Lord who speaks.

culminating somewhat in 7:38

3 **VOICE**. Jesus heals by speaking. Word.

Get up. Arise. The word is commonly used in the NT as that for the resurrection.

Here is the one in ch. 1 described as the word of God, and who alone has the words of eternal life.

later in the chapter — 5:24-25 the dead will hear this voice **and live**. or 10:27-28.

Life is by this one's words. by this one's voice.
 the life-giver speaks and those who hear and believe are given new life.
 the healing of the old paralytic by Jesus' words is an anticipation of the day
 when the dead will hear his voice and live.
 this healing acts as a parable or visual metaphor for that day.

and think of this:

 when we go to work, and in our homes and with our neighbours, we have Jesus' words, the
 words of eternal life the words that he spoke to heal and is speaking to bring life.

when we share the gospel, Jesus calls to his sheep.
 and see what his word is able to do...

4. Healing. Jesus HEALS the man.
 makes him whole. he walks, carries his mat.
 the healing is a foretaste of what is to come.
 Arise is the same words as 5:21
 no surprise he moves on to discuss the **resurrection**
 healing is a giving of new life which anticipates and **promises** the resurrection
 the healing miracles in John's gospel climax in the raising of **Lazarus**, where Jesus says that he is the
 resurrection and the life.

so we need to see this healing as a sample of J's life giving power.
 like the smell of good food when you walk into the kitchen is a sample of the meal you're about to eat.

and what about today?
 does Jesus still heal/make well today? will Jesus heal my mum, my daughter, me?

the answer the gospel of Jesus gives is an unequivocal and bold YES
 will he heal me?
 YES — perfectly and fully.
 will he make you whole? YES

the question isn't IF but when.
 and we don't know when.
 we don't know if he'll give temporary healing for a season now
 or wait until the wholeness of the resurrection and new life.

Question isn't will he heal me? but when will he heal me
 now, later, or in the resurrection.

or the question isn't will he heal me,
 but why wouldn't he.
 look at his compassion. full of compassion, why wouldn't he.
 he'd have to have a pretty good reason not to. so the question is, what good is Jesus doing in my life that is
 better than his currently healing me.

RAELENE.

a compassionate saviour whose word brings life and wholeness.

- Ep #2. UNEXPECTED Responses.
 9b setting. SABBATH.
 new piece of context.
 Sabbath = Saturday. Day of rest. Set aside as the Lord's.
 but by time of NT the Jewish rabbis - 39 types of work forbidden, and carryign somethign frome one place to another, except a work of compassion like carryign a paralytic, was forbidden.
 John tells us this to help us understand what happens next.
- 10-13 The LEADERS condemn rather than show compassion.
 Stop carrying your mat
 the man wasn't breaking OT law but tradition.
 but even when he says - healed me, still have a problem with him
- they fail to rejoice at the man's healing but reinforce their own position by condemnign him.
 not jsut him. but who is this one who commanded him.
- not the response we may have expected - condemning rather than compassion.
- ORCHESTRA.
- do you know people like that.
 maybe we can be like that.
 BIKIE
 GIRL IN DE FACTO REL.
- Jn tells us this to anticipate greater opposition to Jesus because of his life giving work. But he develops it later, so we'll leave it til then.
- 14-15 the MAN walks away.
 Jesus finds him again, warns him. but he leaves Jesus in order to ingratiate himself with those opposing Jesus — the very one who'd made him well after 38 yrs.
 Sasd end really. fianlly healed. but not grateful. still can't recognise the futility of the old system and the truth in the one standing before him, whose very word chases away evil, redeems and heals.
- A we often hope for miracles don't we. in evangelism.
 not really about hte miracles.
 what happened to those healed by J? in many cases they don't stick around.
 b/c its not the miracles but the words taht give life, and the speaker of that word.
 but we have that word -= Jn 6:66-69.
- B to note.
 Sin and sickness.
 v. 14 — stop sinning lest something worse happens.
 best reading is that Jesus here connects his sickness with his sin.
 probably why Jesus chose him out of the many sick at the pool.
 his sin is not about the sabbath, or telling on Jesus, but cause of his sickness.
 but JOHN 9:2-3 — not all sickness is because of sin.

but elsewhere NT some is - eg. 1 Cor 11:30.

Jesus connects this mans sickness with sin. Don't know what his sin was.

Jesus healing about redemption.

His life giving is seen in healing and forgiveness.

the something worse is judgement 5:28-29 - further evidence that this healing is a visual parable to his teaching about judgement and resurrection later in the chapter.

so — if sick, good question to ask yourself and others, do I need to repent of something?

but remember

- most sickness because we live in a world that has rejected God the source of Life and Health.

- not about psycho analyzing everything and being guilty -

Jesus has set us free from guilt and shame.

either way - Jesus is the source of healing. He gives life.

by speaking.

by using health professionals and medicines

by our marvellous bodies which can self-heal.

and of course, if sickness is because of sin, we can expect healing on repentance.

SO how will you RESPOND to this life-giver?

like the old man who sadly walked away not recognising the source of life — ungrateful, ignorant, blind.

like the Jewish leaders, threatened by his claim over them, and so condemning and rejecting...

how?

do we chase after the miraculous and the good blessings,

but fail to come to the life-giver himself for true healing and life.?

Ep #3 Just LIKE the Father.

Tz saying: A snake's son is a snake.
Chip off the old block

Jesus' point - when accused of breaking the sabbath.
although he could have said 'seriously guys, get real, he's just carrying his mat home - healed after 38 years'
or 'your traditions are wrong'
but no, he says,
'hey guys, just doing what my Father's been doing since the beginning'.

v16-18

explored more in the rest of the chapter.
Jews knew god couldn't break the sabbath because the whole universe is his house.
So too Jesus can't, because he works like the father.
and the man can't be breaking the sabbath - because he's obeying Jesus.
and the Sabbath belongs to the lord.

J's answer exonerates the man
defends Jesus
ups the ante — they try even hard to kill him. reason for John's recording of this is to help us see the
opposition to Jesus that led to the crucifixion.

jesus claim here is none other than that is he is DIVINE.

that's why he can HEAL and GIVE LIFE, and judge and Raise the dead and doesn't break the Sabbath.
he acts like his father.
so too we see what God is like in this compassionate healing by a word.
God the father's work is to give life. — 5:20-21.
and redemption.

Our God and Lord Jesus is the LIFE GIVER.

he heals
but more - redeems, frees and establishes true relationship with God = eternal life (17:3).
he restores and makes whole
he releases from guilt and shame and reconciles.

LIFE is a precious gift from the lord that we ought to rejoice in, and even more in New Life.

and by his grace we can join in this.

our regular work can enable life.
teaching, doctors, accountants....benefitting community and so enabling life .
gardening - be thrilled at new life.
babies — what a precious gift from the Lord, new life.

how much more so in evangelism.
new life by Jesus's words.
given to us, spoken through us.

take joy in life and enable life.

a compassion child.

rejoice in God's good gift of life to you.

Conclusion

Jn 20:30-31 purpose not who is Jesus but who is the Christ that God has sent.

this one Jesus - what's he like?

what sort of king has God sent for us?

compassionate

powerful — his word heals.

life giver — he raises the dead.

divine — he's like his father.

What do you think?

can you follow this one? listen and believe in him? as so have new life?

What do you think?

is this Jesus, the divine, compassionate giver of life, is he somebody we can introduce to our friends and family, to share with them the source of life?

for by believing we are granted to have life in his name.