



Lent 2023
The Walking Points
John 5:1–15

In Jesus' life and ministry he did many things. Some ordinary. Some miraculous. John, one of Jesus' disciples, describes the miraculous as signs. In Scripture signs always have a purpose—they point. Jesus' miracles always pointed. They pointed to who he is and why he came to earth. This Lenten season, Vintage Church is studying these signs to discover what they reveal to us about Jesus' identity. Who is Jesus and what does it mean for us?

In our third sign, Jesus heals an invalid. The man has been crippled for thirty-eight years. He thinks his only option is to be placed in the Pool of Bethesda. Jesus, however, demonstrates he is the source of wholeness. In fact, Jesus shows us wholeness is not only physical; it's spiritual. He wants to make us completely whole.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

John 5:1–15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. **3** In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. **5** One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” **7** The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” **8** Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” **9** And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. **10** So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” **11** But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” **12** They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” **13** Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. **14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” **15** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

- How do you think our culture thinks of wholeness? How does that compare to Scripture’s understanding?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to be healed?” Wouldn’t the answer be obvious?
- Jesus tells the man to “get up,” the same word often used to refer to resurrection. How is Jesus’ resurrection and subsequently our future resurrection the hope for our wholeness?
- If the resurrection of Jesus didn’t happen what does that mean for Christians? How would that make you feel if the resurrection didn’t occur?
- How is sin and sickness generally connected in Scripture? How should this relationship affect how we see sin, especially in light of wholeness?
- What are other things in our culture and world that we pursue thinking and hoping they will make us whole? How do those things disappoint us?
- Jesus himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and *the life*” (John 14:6). What does it mean for Jesus to be the life? How is this connected to our wholeness?

- If Jesus is the life and the source of our wholeness, how do we trust him alone for this life and wholeness?
- As followers of Jesus who have experienced the wholeness that Jesus offers, how can we extend that wholeness to others around us?