

LEARNING INTO THIS LOVE HEALING OUR BROKENNESS

John 5:1 – 15
Pastor Daniel Hahn
February 8/9, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

1. The situation
2. The invitation

*This may come as a surprise to you: Christianity is not an invitation to become a moral person. It is not a program for getting us in line or for reforming society. It has a powerful effect upon our lives, but when transformation comes, it is always the aftereffect of something else, something at the level of our hearts. At its core, Christianity begins with an invitation to desire. — John Eldredge, *The Journey of Desire**

Condemning — I hate myself, I'm no good, why try, it's no use, I'll never be...

Concealing — I'm not what I want to be so I hide from God and others

Condoning — I'm not as bad as some people, or I'm a victim of my circumstances ... or whatever.

3. The transformation

Accepted (not condemning) — God's love and Christ's sacrifice means there's hope.

Authentic (not concealing) — I can come to God with total honesty and He receives me.

Accountable (not condoning) — He lovingly works change in my life often through community.

What's paralyzing you right now?

1. Am I praying with authenticity to God who knows the deepest truths about me?

*The courage to face unpleasant aspects of our inner self comes from feeling deeply loved. It also comes from the assurance that we are safe. Our gaze needs to go back and forth between divine love and our fears. We gain courage to face our fears as we soak in love. — David Benner, *Surrender to Love**

2. Am I pursuing a life of real surrender or am I unwilling to let God have me fully?

*To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to His good Providence, give the present wholly to His love by being faithful to His grace. — Jean-Pierre de Caussade, *The Joy of Full Surrender**

3. Am I more concerned with circumstances changing or my character changing?

*God's grace flows like water, steadily downward to the lowest part. Indeed, how could we experience grace at all except through our defects? In Jesus' day tax collectors, prostitutes, and unclean persons reached out their hands to receive God's grace while religious professionals closed theirs into tight fists. In receiving a free gift, having open hands is the only requirement. ... In the presence of the Great Physician, my most appropriate contribution may be my woundedness. — Philip Yancey, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What thoughts stuck with you from last weekend's sermon?
- Besides the obvious physical breakdowns we endure, what are some other ways people become broken?
- How have you personally seen God restore a broken life — maybe yours or someone you know?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the man if he really wanted to get well? What are some ways that people don't want to get well?
- It appears from the story that the man thought his biggest problem was his physical circumstances. Yet when Jesus confronts him later on, he turns the attention to a bigger problem (v. 14). In what ways have you noticed that we tend to get fixated on material problems and ignore bigger spiritual issues?
- In light of this conversation, how might God be initiating or motivating something new in you?