

THE GIFT OF CURIOSITY: WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

Scriptures used: [John 5:1-9 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon wrapped up our 3-week sermon series *The Gift of Curiosity* with the story of the lame man at Bethesda. Stuck by the well for 38 years waiting to be healed, the man encounters Jesus but doesn't know who He is. Jesus asks the man one profound question that we all need to consider: "Would you like to get well?" Jesus alone offered the man the opportunity to open up a fuller life as part of God's plan. Our environment, experiences, and expectations may be different than the lame man in Bethesda 2,000 years ago, but we also need Jesus to open us up to God's purpose for us.

KEY POINTS

- 1. God made us curious.** God knew how important our curiosity would be for the world. That God-given curiosity leads us to ask the question "What if?" that we hear all the time from children. That simple question drives many improvements in the world around us. Curiosity is a powerful force because it frames everything as an opportunity to learn, even so-called failures. Asking "what if?" powered the efforts of entrepreneurs to invent new things. Curiosity helped lead to light bulbs and electric vehicles. Asking "what if?" also powered the social movements that make the world a better place. Curiosity helped lead to an end to slavery and the extension of civil rights to more Americans.
- 2. Life can kill our curiosity.** The sick man at Bethesda had been there for 38 years. As a child he must have asked many questions about the world. The world slowly, painfully beat curiosity out of him. It convinced him that he shouldn't ask questions and that he was stuck where he was, literally and metaphorically. He was so locked into this view that he stopped being curious about anything. He didn't even bother to ask Jesus who He was. The sick man had no idea who he was talking to!
 - a. Our environment kills our curiosity.** The lame man was surrounded by sick people. They had all accepted the world around them. There was no cause for curiosity or hope until Jesus came.
 - b. Our experience kills our curiosity.** The lame man had tried for decades to be the first to the pool so he could be healed. Each time he failed, that experience beat him down a bit more.
 - c. Our expectations kill our curiosity.** After a certain number of attempts, the lame man no longer tried to make it to the pool. He complained to Jesus "Someone else always gets there ahead of me." His expectations were now so low that he didn't even try to be healed.
- 3. We can recover from losing our curiosity.** With the help of Jesus, we can turn our "I can't" mentality into an "I can" mentality. Of course we all have strengths and weaknesses. We may not have obvious disabilities, but all of us have certain areas where we are held back. Those are inabilities, which are places where we have accepted profound limitations. We shut down our growth mindset, which views a mistake as a chance to learn, and get stuck in a fixed mindset, which views a mistake as a personal failure. Like that man, we must start asking questions again. And like that man, we must make up our mind to respond with faith and dare to wonder. He wasn't healed until he tried to stand. It's up to us to respond to Jesus when He asks us to stand up and walk! In many instances, God might leave our disabilities in place, but He can still use our lives powerfully (consider Bethany Hamilton, Stevie Wonder, and Joni Eareckson Tada, and many more!)

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - What limitations in your life are you most frustrated about? Are they personal limitations, circumstantial limitations, or experiential limitations?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Reflect on [John 5:1-9 \(NLT\)](#). What is the difference between a disability and an inability? Are there areas in our lives where we identify with how the paralyzed man feels? What prevents us from believing that God is able to work through our lives, whether or not he actually removes our disability? What makes it hard to continue to be open to God's miraculous work in our lives?
- 3) DO** - We are starting a new sermon series *Explore God* next week. This series is being done with over 150 churches around the Bay Area! Thousands of people will be gathering in safe spaces to wonder together, asking seven profound questions. Check out [the website](#) for more details. As we get ready to Explore God, pray to Him to reveal 5 people that you should invite to join you for your own small group discussion.