

# QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED: Do you want to be well?

March 16, 2025

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## John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 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 making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Jesus asks a question to a long-suffering sick man that some have found insensitive (at best), “Do you want to be made well?” What do you make of this question Jesus asks? Why might Jesus ask this question sincerely and profoundly?
3. In what ways are you seeking healing in this season of your life?
4. One of the most arresting statements made by the sick man is, “I have no one...”. Why is this so important to notice and respond to by those of us who claim to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus (ie, the church)? How might this statement be, significantly, why this story is recorded and shared?
5. What professionals, communities, or ideas/practices do you turn to for support on your healing journey? What difference does “having someone” make?
6. Take some time to prayerfully reflect on who God is calling you to respond to, who otherwise might have no one to accompany them, help them, advocate for them, or empower their voice. Ask God to

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open your eyes and your heart so you are ready to respond faithfully.

7. The season of Lent is about prayerful, self-reflective honesty with respect to what is harming, hurting, and depleting us. Importantly, though, it is not just about exposing and confessing the ways sin entangles us individually and collectively. It is also about seeking healing and wholeness, about developing new ideas, practices, and relationships that address what is most broken about us. What kinds of healing and wellness are your practices of Lent leading to?

8. Note the lack of a verse 4. Sometimes you might notice a verse “skipped” in the bible. In this case, that’s because recent scholarship discovered the earliest and best manuscripts of John’s gospel without this verse. Likely, verse 4 was a notation written in the margin of a later manuscript, and then a scribe making a new manuscript thought this notation was supposed to be included in the text (the technical term for this error is “interpolation”). How does the human production and transmission of the bible impact your understanding of the bible?

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## QUESTIONS Lenten Sermon Series

Jesus asked over 300 questions in the gospels. He knew the power and promise of a good question. Lean into the questions Jesus asked, and explore some of the hardest questions you asked.

**March 23**

**Questions Jesus Asked: Whom Will You Love?** (Luke 6:27-36)

**March 30**

**Youth-Led Sunday**

**April 7**

**Questions You Asked: What About Heaven and Hell?** (1 John 4:7-12)

**April 14**

**One Question Jesus Answered** (Matthew 22:8-11, 34-40)

## LENTEN RESOURCES

Welcome the Lenten season of introspection and self-examination. Learn more about what Lent can mean and how you can experience it. Find a Lenten guide and more resources in the foyer or online: [southelkhornc.org/lent](https://southelkhornc.org/lent)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17, 6:30 PM, Historic Sanctuary**

A contemplative worship service in the spiritual intimacy of the Historic Sanctuary. Nursery provided for children ages 6 weeks to 2 years.

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**Listen Online**

Sermon audio available at [southelkhornc.org/sermons](https://southelkhornc.org/sermons)