

Group/Individual Study

Series: Questions Jesus Asked: "Do you want to get well?"

Passages: John 5:1-15, 2 Cor12:7-9

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 10/15

1. Read John 5:1-15. This man's obvious ailment was a physical one; he couldn't walk. But the question Jesus asked him -- "Do you want to get well?" -- in the original language was broader than that; encompassing not only the physical but also spiritual, emotional, and mental wellness. Why do you think Jesus asked him this question?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. Paul had some unstated ailment in his life that he asked God to remove. In that specific case God didn't remove the thorn. What did God teach Paul through that experience? How was Paul more "whole" and "well" from this experience than he might have been with a straight removal of the thorn?
3. Do you ever go to God wanting him to "fix" a specific situation, only to find that He seems interested in a more transformative agenda than just to make the hard thing go away? Has this ever frustrated you? Have you ever seen the benefit of it? How did that play out?
4. Have you ever seen God do a work of healing that you consider miraculous? Was it in your own life or in someone else's? What spiritual impact did it have on you and others when it happened?
5. There is mystery around how God heals and makes us well. Sometimes He does that by powerfully healing our bodies or dramatically intervening in a situation on our behalf. Other times He makes us "well" by giving us grace to endure a hard situation and to be made more Christ-like in the process. On the front end of a situation we don't know which of these ways God will show up and be faithful. How do you think God wants us to approach prayers for healing and wellness in light of this?
6. Janet talked about how hurts, pains, and hard things can become our identity or distort it. Who in your life has walked through (or is currently walking through) really hard things but has let Jesus use that to make them more Christ-like -- rather than be shriveled by it? How does their example inspire you?