



## **Gary Inrig – The Miracles (Lord of the Sufferer and the Sabbath)**

*Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)”*

### **Week 9 – Read Chapter Nine - Lord of the Sufferer and the Sabbath**

**Read – John 5:1-24**

**\*NOTE:** Before beginning it is always good to see if there are any immediate prayer needs among the group and be sure to include within opening prayer. Remind all too that ... *“What we say here stays here” so there is freedom in sharing – we are all learning from each other and from the Holy Spirit together – “Iron sharpens Iron” (Proverbs 27:17)*

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Holy Spirit ... be with us as we delve deep into Your Word of truth tonight. Show us Lord what You have for each one of us that we may treasure it in our hearts - order our time and talks tonight – as sit at your feet to learn from You - we pray in Jesus name Amen!

**Overview:** This chapter focuses on the miracle of Jesus healing a paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, revealing Christ's divine identity and authority. Through this healing miracle, Jesus deliberately provoked controversy by claiming equality with God the Father, asserting His lordship over the Sabbath, and showing His power over all disease, disability and human suffering. Gary emphasizes that Jesus chose to heal the most unlikely of candidates—a faithless, hopeless man who had been paralyzed for 38 years—to show that His grace is freely given based not on merit rather on our need.

- Today’s contemporary culture encourages rugged individualism and self-defined truth; Christians are called to follow Christ and live by God's truth.
- Jesus deliberately chose to heal on the Sabbath to reveal His divine identity.
- Religious leaders cared more about keeping Sabbath regulations than the miraculous healing of a suffering man.
- Jesus claimed equality with God by calling Him "my Father" and asserting the same Sabbath exemption that belongs to God alone.

*“Cheer up, Christian! Things are not left to chance: no blind fate rules the world. God hath purposes, and those purposes are fulfilled. God hath plans, and those plans are wise, and never can be dislocated.” - Charles Spurgeon*

**Read together — John 5:1-24**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is one cultural slogan or attitude (like "you do you", or - "to thine own self be true", and or "that's just my truth") that you hear often? How does it differ from what Jesus teaches?

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2. Why do you think Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" What do you think He was He really saying or probing?

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3. The man at the pool was "*married to his problems*" and had given up hope. Have you ever found yourself in a similar place—resigned to a situation rather than seeking change? What helped you move forward?

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4. Gary - contrasts "*expressive individualism*" (*you be you, live your truth*) with following Jesus. In what specific areas of your life do you struggle between following cultural values and following Christ?

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5. Jesus told the healed man, "Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." While not all suffering is connected to specific sin, how should we respond when God convicts us of sin that is causing harm in our lives?

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***"Do not fear, only believe." - Mark 5:36***



Things to Do this Week - Try to Put At Least One Into Practice (These are only thought starters) –

**# 1: Examine Your Heart** Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any areas where you've become resigned to disappointment or have gotten stuck in “*stinkin-thinkn*”. Journal about what He shows you and seek His wisdom and Word for next steps.

**#2: Go Somewhere Different!** Like Jesus going to the Pool of Bethesda, think about one uncomfortable or unexpected place where God might be calling you to serve or visit this week and if He calls you to go ... go.

**#3: WWJD?** In a culture of “follow your own heart,” and “*I did it my way*” - make a conscious decision this week of following Christ’s heart instead. When faced with a choice - ask: “What does Jesus want in this situation?” or “What would Jesus do?” - rather than “What do I want?” or “What would I normally do?”

**Closing Prayer:** *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please pray on your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

*–Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.*

*We - thank You Lord – for this time and this fellowship and this lesson - that You will not only never leave us ... You always pursue us – and have come on purpose to find us – wherever we find ourselves “stuck” on the side of the road or some pool of misery somewhere – help us to always remember that You are for us – and that You came to heal our broken hearts and bind up our wounds (Psalm 147:3) ... Let us also - always be reminded Lord - to comfort those with the comfort with which we have received -we pray this in Jesus name – Amen!*

*“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*