

FAMILY

values *always* *jesus*

Introduction

This week we are continuing our series on Family Values with “Always Jesus”. Many times, we can be so familiar with our circumstances/struggles that we think it’s normal to stay in that place. Through our struggles, we learn to rationalize to ourselves and push Jesus out of our response to life's struggles. We can respond with excuses, complaints and blame so much so that we don't even know that we are stuck. Our focus for healing/answers is set on the wrong thing, that we don't recognize when Jesus is standing in front of us saying - “Do you want to be made well?”

Having an “Always Jesus” mindset means that we look beyond what we can see around us, to break through the bubble that we have been living in so long to see what Jesus can do in and through our lives.

John 5: 1- 14 (NLT)

¹ Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ² Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, [a] with five covered porches. ³ Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. Waiting for a certain movement of the water, ⁴ for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had. ⁵ One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

⁷ “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

⁸ Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

¹¹ But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² *“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.*

¹³ *The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. ¹⁴ But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so, stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does “Always Jesus” mean to you?
2. The story of the man seeking for healing from a pool shows how we can shift our focus from true healing: Jesus. What are some “pools” (something that shifts or limits our focus from all that Jesus can do) that you are struggling with in your life?
3. The mat that the man has represents his past life, habits, or mindset. Picking up the mat means that we’re rising up and there’s no need to return there because we’re not coming back there. Can you share with the group a mat that you need to pick up and let go? Or can you share your experience of letting go of a past mindset to embrace a Jesus Always mindset?
4. Although we have let go of the mat, it serves as an important story. They represent our stories of grace, redemption, restoration, forgiveness, hope, love and faith.
 - a. There is always value in the power and significance that our mats/stories have in adding value to others still navigating their way through darkness, but sometimes telling such stories can be a scary thing. What are some ways that we can get over that fear?
5. In John 5:14, Jesus said that “... Now you are well; so, stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” Lima said that a sin that would cause things to be worse than 38 years being paralyzed is **unbelief**. Can you share with the group one thing you find difficult to fully trust God in?

Jesus asked the man a simple question. “Do you want to be made well?” This is not a trick question. If we can get courageous enough to align our minds, our responses and our hearts to be echoing the same “Always Jesus” answer, we can then stand a better chance of pointing people to Jesus.

Let’s close in prayer.