JESUS’ HELP FOR THE HOPELESS

John 5:1-15

Key verse: 8

1. Describe the atmosphere at the pool of Bethesda, in contrast to the Jewish festival? What kind of hope can we find in such a place (1-3)?

2. Who caught Jesus’ attention (5)? What does it mean that Jesus learned of his condition? Why might Jesus ask “Do you want to get well” (6)?

3. What does his response reveal about him (7)? What command did Jesus give (8)? How might this be a challenge for all of us? Think about what it means to walk. Why might Jesus have healed this particular man (9)?

4. What challenge did this man run into (10-13)? What needed to be changed in the man’s heart (14-15; cf. Lk 17:17-18; cf. Jn 9:30-34; 1Co 10:31)? How did this healing challenge the religious legalism?

Discussion: What can we learn about Jesus’ compassion for helpless people? What does Jesus’ command “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk mean to you?