



Our passage finds Jesus at a pool in Jerusalem. The area surrounding the pool was filled with people who had all kinds of physical handicaps. Word on the street was that whoever got into the pool while the water was being stirred would experience healing! Jesus' eyes fell on a man who had been paralyzed for a long time. Jesus spoke to the man: "To take up his mat and walk." Jesus' words not only brought healing to the man; they also exposed the false hope to which many at the pool were clinging. In this study you will think about some of the empty promises that permeate our culture, and how responding to the voice of Jesus brings healing and hope.

1. Try to remember a time when a voice you listened to lead you in a wrong direction.
2. Do you agree with the statement: We all allow some voice to direct our lives? How are voices in our culture telling people to live their lives?

Read John 5:1-5

3. Allow your imagination to envision what the pool of Bethesda was like. What do you see? hear? Smell? Why do you think Jesus came to the pool? **See Luke 5:31-32**. Why did he speak to this man?
4. Doug's message on Sunday was entitled, *The Transforming Voice of Jesus*. **Read Psalm 29**. What parallels do you see between the voice of God in Psalm 29 and the voice of Jesus in our passage?
5. Are there other stories that come to mind from the gospel of John where someone was changed because they heard (and obeyed) the voice of Jesus?
6. How have you seen/experienced the transforming power of God at work when you or someone you know listened to the voice of Jesus?
7. Jesus told the man, "Stop sinning our something worse may happen to you." What did Jesus have in mind when he talked about "something worse?" **See John 5:28-29**. Why should the man (we) believe that Jesus knows what he is talking about Jesus?
8. Time to get honest. Which lie in our current culture are you the most likely to believe and follow? How does the voice of Jesus counter this lie?
9. What is Jesus saying to you through this study?

Close your time in prayer. Thank God that Jesus came into our world, and that his eyes fell on you. Pray that you would hear the voice of Jesus. Pray for the person in your circle of relationships that needs to hear the voice of Jesus.