



Problems BY THE Pool

Sermon by Bennett Ellison
John 5:1-9

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The lectionary reading stops at v. 9, but I would encourage you to read through v. 18.

1. After reading through the story, what observations can be made about setting and characters?
2. Consider the role of the pool. You'll notice that v. 4 is probably omitted from many Bibles. (this gets into the fascinating world of textual criticism) The earliest manuscripts omit v. 4, but later manuscripts include it. Many modern Bibles will omit it, but will add the footnote. According to the tradition, an angel would come to stir the waters, becoming a pool that brings healing.
3. What do we learn about the sick man that Jesus interacts with? Try to put yourself in his shoes. What do you think he was feeling prior to his interaction with Jesus? Notice how he responds to Jesus. What do you make of his response?
4. Sunday's homily focused on how though this man had his sickness, we all have been infected with the sickness of sin. How might our 'sickness' relate to the

sickness of the man in the story?

5. The man makes the excuse that he has no one to put him into the pool. How is this response similar to how we might respond to Jesus' invitation to healing?
6. We see that Jesus wants to heal the man, but Jesus' plan for healing was different from the man's plan. Can you think of a time where God's plan for healing/restoration in your life looked different than what you had planned?
7. To close, I want to invite you into a time of contemplation. This exercise can be done privately if you'd prefer. Consider if there's an area of your life where you've been trusting in your own plan. What might it look like to trust God's plan?

