

(1) In John 4:48 Jesus seems to rebuke the crowds by saying, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” Does this mean it is sinful for us to seek after or pray for miracles? If not, why not? What else does Jesus say in John’s gospel that would lead us to conclude that he does not mean it is always sinful to seek after signs? Under what circumstances would it be sinful for us to do so?

(2) Why did Jesus ask the paralytic if he wanted to be healed? Is it a silly question? If not, what was the point in asking it? Have you ever known people who didn’t want to be healed, even though they constantly ask for prayer? Why do you think people might not want to be healed?

(3) Why did Jesus heal only one from among the multitude of people at the pool? How does John 5:19 help us understand what Jesus was doing? Is this verse one that we should incorporate into our Christian experience today?

(4) Rehearse among yourselves the differences between the healing story in John 4 and the one in John 5. What lessons can we learn from this about healing?

(5) How does the reaction of the religious leaders strike you? Have you seen examples in your life where leaders were more concerned with preserving their cherished traditions than they were with encountering the power of God? If so, explain what happened.