# Encounters with Jesus 6. A life defined by illness Jn 5:1-15

# Illness

## Illness is not something most people enjoy

### But it is something at the forefront of our minds

## Wellness and illness are among the primary drivers of identity

### Illness can ignite an identity crisis because it robs people of who they aspire to be

# John 5

## There are conclusions about how this chapter provides evidence for what John has stated he believes about Jesus in 1:1-18

## The content sheds light on the ministry and work of Jesus, when John wrote the gospel and the significance of the numbers

## The story is of a man whose life is defined by illness

### We are all like this!

#### We think that’s not true until we are ill with something life-threatening and suddenly everything is questioned

# God allows suffering

## Why didn’t God prevent it?

## If He’s a heavenly Father how could He allow it?

### It is a mystery (we don’t know yet!)

#### We can think God has a dark side (He’s not all good) or He lacks the power to prevent it

##### Neither of which is true

## God is omniscient!

## God IS an intervening God…

# God heals some

## God has the power to heal

### Jesus is doing what the Father does

#### He intervenes and changes a person’s future

## But He doesn’t heal everyone

### So why does Jesus pick this person?

# God works on an individual level

## Jesus shows that God is a God of grace

### Jesus calls him to stop falling short of God’s glory

### Jesus warns of consequences

## God will call everyone to account

### He wants to welcome you into glory forever

## He has given you the opportunity to walk with Him through life

### His hand is extended but you have to take it…

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# John 5

## Looking at John 1:1-18 what evidence does John provide in 5:1-15 for his beliefs about Jesus?

## Does it matter which feast it was in v1?

### Explain your answer

## Does the use of the present tense in v2 tell us that Jerusalem is yet to be destroyed in AD70?

### What can this tell us about the date of writing of John?

## How legitimate is it to use the numbers to imply hidden meaning to the passage?

### Explain your answer

# Illness and self-identity

### “The older we get the more focussed we become on our health”

#### To what extent do you agree with this?

## To what extent do you agree that people define themselves according to the state of their health?

### Explain your answer with examples

## In what ways does the gospel challenge this notion?

### How does this change the way we see illness?

### How does it change the way we see disabled people?

### How does it change the way we see ourselves?

# Illness and the nature of God

## How do you answer the criticism that if God allows suffering He is either ‘not omnipotent’ or ‘not completely loving’?

### How do you hold both truths in the light of suffering or do you concede one?

#### If you concede one – which one, and why?

# God’s grace

## What can a person do to obtain God’s grace when they are ill?

### Why do you think ‘enough faith’ is not mentioned in this passage?

## Why do you think Jesus found the man and told him to ‘stop sinning?’ (14)

### What sin was he committing?

## If a person is healed by Him what can God reasonably expect from them?

### Is this expectation a demand?

#### If not, what is it?