



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Encounters with Jesus – No Longer Alone

Speaker: Sherin Swift, Assistant Pastor

Scripture: John 5:1-15

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed and they waited for the moving waters. From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk’ ”.

So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

John 5:1-15

Sermon Outline:

- I. Loneliness is a global health concern. We need community.
- II. The Jewish people had three large celebrations a year - Feast of the Tabernacle, Passover and Pentacost - and they would meet at the temple.
- III. The man has a disability that makes him unclean. He says, "I have no one". He has hope but no help.
- IV. When you feel lonely, look for who God could be sending your way.
- V. Jesus restores him, and it gives him community. We see that later when Jesus finds the man in the temple.
- VI. Jesus gives us the power to restore community.
- VII. We as Christians should see the unseen and reach out to them.
- VIII. God dwells with the lonely and wants to restore them through the church.

Sermon Summary:

Pastor Sherin Swift offers the 6th sermon in the Encounters with Jesus series, about being alone.

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - In your family of origin, was there a sense of community? Were there certain gatherings or holidays you would all come together? Or was your upbringing more lonely where most people did their own thing?

- What obstacles do you face that cause you to miss community?
- Has there been a time in your life you felt lonely or do you know someone now who needs community?
- During a time of feeling alone did you have someone who reached out to you? Is there someone you could reach out to? Or do you need prayer to see those around you better?