

Prayer Service
July 6, 2019
The City Life Church

In the 1960s, an American educator named Edgar Dale created the “Cone of Experience.”

People retain more information by what they “do” as opposed to what they read, hear, or see.

He said, after two weeks, we tend to remember:

10% of what we read.

20% of what we hear.

30% of what we see.

50% of what we SEE and HEAR.

70% of what we say and write.

90% of what we SAY and DO.

This is important because, if that holds true, then 80% of what we hear at church is forgotten within two weeks.

Tonight, is going to be different though.

We are going to increase our experience from 20-percent of what we hear to 90-percent of what we SAY (by praying) and DOING (by stepping out in faith).

Pastor Fred often says, “If you’ve never placed yourself in a position to have someone else pray for you, now is the time as it is an incredibly powerful moment.”

Highlight some PLACES by The Pool that we find ourselves throughout our life.

This is a familiar story from John 5:1-15.

To continue our outward transformation of our inward renewal, we have to continually respond to the same question Jesus asked of the man by the pool.

“Do you want to be well?”

The first place – or condition – that we all find ourselves is a familiar one.

And, it’s probably one of the more difficult aspects of our humanity.

It’s a place that both connects us to one another but also confuses us sometimes and can leave us with more questions than answers.

1. SICKNESS.

We’re all familiar with the famous C.S. Lewis quote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscious, but shouts in our pain; it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

Sickness is one of those areas where our humanity collides with His divinity and we often find ourselves in a PLACE of **desperate dependence**.

Very few earthly circumstances drive us to prayer like sickness.

And sickness can take many forms: not just physical, but mental, emotional, spiritual, and even relational.

According to Webster's, sick can mean unwell, out of sorts, and even "not oneself."

The second layer to this story reflects another tendency of our humanity. And I am very familiar with it.

2. EXCUSES.

The first words of this man are often our first words to Jesus: "I can't"

Or, as the author of Hebrews (12:1-1-2) says, "Let us throw off the sin that so easily entangles us and let us run with endurance the race marked out for us. Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

Where excuses look in, blame looks out.

3. BLAME.

The man also said, "Someone always gets there ahead of me."

Rather than look to Jesus, we look at others and put our responsibility for responding to Jesus on them.

If we hope to be whole and see a different future than our past, we must stop looking at others and start looking to Him.

The last area is in the deep end of the pool.

4. IDENTITY.

Some of us are too comfortable with our mat.

Tonight, we will be praying over these areas:

- Sickness of any kind; anything that causes us to be “not ourselves”
 - No more hiding behind excuses
 - Or being held back by blame
 - We will be breaking free from false identities
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But also:

If you want to pray for your kids, come.

If you want to pray for someone else, come and stand in their place.

If you want to pray for your new job, come.

If you want to pray for a financial breakthrough, come.

If you want to pray for our nation, come.

If you want to pray for our world, come.

Maybe, you have a relationship with Jesus, and you have prayed. You have asked.

So it's created, not just a place, but a **POSTURE** that sounds like this:

“I've already asked.” Or, “What difference will it make?”

In **Luke 18**, Scripture tells us a story about a persistent widow and an unjust judge.

“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”

Our posture must be one of Perseverance.