



WELCOME TO CEC.....	Robbie Matthews
SINGING TOGETHER	Great are you Lord
PRAYER	
SINGING TOGETHER	Goodness (with me in the rising sun)
UPDATES	Robbie Matthews
SINGING TOGETHER	Your love so great
BIBLE READING	John 5:1-15 (Church Bible page 1120)
MESSAGE	Taught by Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER	Here is love, vast as the ocean
COMMUNION	How deep the father's love for us Everyone needs compassion



Person of interest ~3
Compassion over religion
John 5:1-15

'That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched –this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life.' 1 John 1:1-2 NIV

'But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name.' John 20:31 NIV

John's gospel is organised around _____ signs.

The third sign: The healing at the pool. (or healing on the sabbath).

1. The _____ of Jesus.

'Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 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 paralysed.' John 5:1-3 NIV

'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 he had.' John 5:4 NIV

'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?"' John 5:5-6 NIV

"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." John 5:7

2. The _____ of Jesus.

'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 Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."' John 5:8-10 NIV

'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.' Exodus 20:8 NIV

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16 NIV

'But he replied, "The man he didn't even know who it is who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' "" John 5:11 NIV

'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.' John 5:12-13 NIV

'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 Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.' John 5:14-15 NIV

3. The _____ of Jesus.

'So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.'" John 5:16-17 NIV

'For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.' John 5:18 NIV

'Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'" John 5:19 NIV

'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.' John 5:39-40 NIV

Does your version of _____ or _____ get in the way of loving people that God loves?

Does your version of _____ get in the way of loving people that God loves?



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. What is one law or cultural expectation that you wish was different?
2. Is there a time you can remember that someone went against the rules or the norm so that you could benefit?
3. Read John 5:1–18.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe that this actually happened?
 - Before healing him, Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to get well?" Why do you think Jesus asked him that?
 - Why do Jesus' actions and words cause trouble in verses 8-10?
 - In verse 9, notice how quickly the author (John) pivots from the miraculous healing to the fact that this happened on the Sabbath. What does this say about the main reason John captured this story?
 - Verses 16–18 lay the groundwork for why religious leaders were at odds with Jesus. What do their comments tell you about their religious priorities?
4. Read John 5:39–40. Describe how the religious leaders may have felt hearing this.
5. Give an example of how your past version of Christianity got in the way of loving people God loves. Is your current version getting in the way?
6. Is there a step you can take to make a particular person a bigger priority than a potentially flawed belief or tradition? How could your Life Group help?



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.