

## Timeout

### Do You Want To Get Well? – Ben Foote

October 24, 2021

#### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

#### // Bible References

John 5:1-9; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 1:7.

#### // Message Summary

This week's message from Ben Foote throws out the question, "Does anybody want to win this thing?" Do we want to win at dating? Relationships? Marriage? Sexuality? Parenting? Our careers? Following Jesus? Our first response is likely to be, "Of course I do!" But then we look at our actions, and they can often tell a different story. The real story our actions are telling, as we're sitting on our couches staring at a screen, is that we've already given up. We don't know how to fix our relationships, or careers, or addictions - so we mail it in. We blame others for our failures. We play the game like we've already lost. But Jesus wants us healed and whole. We know He once asked a disabled man a question similar to the one Ben asked in his message: "Do you want to get well?" God is still asking us that very same question today.

#### // Biblical and Historical Context

The question that Ben referenced, "Do you want to get well?", was asked by Jesus to a disabled man as he lay beside a pool in northeastern Jerusalem. Historical records from the first century indicate that in this corner of the city, there existed a small gate where sheep would be brought in to be sacrificed at the Temple (this gate became known by a rather uninventive name: "The Sheep Gate"). Near the gate were the pools of Bethesda, named after the Hebrew word that meant "house of outpouring". Tradition had it that when the waters of the pool were stirred (some thought this was the act of angels), healing would be granted to the first person to enter the water. Thus the poolside became the de facto home for a myriad of sick and disabled people who placed their hope in winning the scramble to the water's edge.

Jesus' healing of the man was a remarkable act of both divinity and mercy. While the healing powers of the water were typically attributed to pagan spirits, Jesus showed that it was His power - not the springs or the spirits - that brought healing. He also exposed that the pagan belief system required effort and exertion from man, but that His healing came as a free, unearned and irrevocable gift from the perfect Healer.

### // Community Questions

1. Have you ever been the key person who made the shot, hit the run or scored the goal that won the game? Describe what happened!
2. If you could have been on the same team as any sportsperson in history, who would you choose and why?

### // Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read John 5:1-9. What stands out as interesting to you?
2. The pagan belief about healing at the pools turned healing into a competition, and a reward only available to some. How does this compare to how Jesus offered healing?
3. Ben shared that the disabled man blamed someone else for his predicament (verse 7). This is a common response to our problems (Adam also blamed Eve for his mess in Genesis 3:12, and Sarai blamed Abram for hers in Genesis 16:5).

What is the impact, on us and others, when we choose to play the "blame-game"?

4. "Playing to win" takes focus, self-discipline and training. Think of an area in your life that you'd like to win (relationships, work, healing etc). What might that area look like if you gave it one year of focus, self-discipline and training?
5. Imagine for a moment that God is asking you that very question: "Do you want to get well?" What does this tell you about His posture towards you?

### // Challenge

Our next series is called Man Down, Man Up. It will be an unabashed challenge to the men of Flatirons Community Church to build God-designed, Christ-centered masculinity in order to provide for, protect and lift up others.

So let's get our men into church!

- If you're a man, cancel your Sunday morning plans for the next five weeks and get yourself into church. You can do this.
- If you're a woman, and you know a man - a husband, father, brother, son, nephew, hairdresser, dog-walker - do what you can to make it possible for them to get into church for the next five weeks. You can also do this, and it will be worth it!