



MAKE.IT.COUNT.

It's All About Me

#npmakeitcount

Week 2

2 of 4

August 12, 2018

Bottom Line: Jesus didn't come just to forgive us but to free us.

Icebreaker: Your house is on fire, all the people are out safe, and you have just enough time to run through the house and collect three items you want to keep. What would they be and why?

Key Verse: *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 5:6 NIV

Thirty-eight years. He had been sick for thirty-eight years but so close to the source of healing that he had watched countless other people get healed on a regular basis. He wanted to get well, but his want to apparently wasn't strong enough to get anyone to help him. He needed to get into the water when the water was stirred, but since he couldn't do it himself, it never happened. We don't know if originally he had asked and gave up after a few rejections, or if he had gotten so used to his sickness that he slowly self-identified as a hopeless victim of his illness. Whatever the case, Jesus immediately identified his desire as lacking. Jesus pointed out that he had to want to get well enough to make some new decisions or he would be forever stuck.

It is the same for us. We have to let our desire override our situation, our excuses, and other people. We must immerse ourselves in God's love to the point that the fullness of our love for God dispels our fear (1 John 4:18). We are able to trust Him and not fear the things He asks us to do. This love will drive us to do the things that are uncomfortable but necessary. We will be able to see clearly, choose wisely, and act with courage.

Armed with God's love, we have the courage to actually work with God to examine our lives and acknowledge what needs healed and changed. We lose our defensiveness and honestly own what is out of kilter in our lives. We can't fix or heal anything we don't acknowledge.

Once we see the problems through the eyes of God's unconditional and powerful love for us, we have the courage and motivation to develop and follow a plan of action. This sets us on a path to true freedom and health.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from Sunday's message?

Why do you think we immediately blame our situation or the people around us for our lack of health or freedom?

"It's often easier to stay sick than to get well, if you are used to your sickness." Agree or disagree?

How would you suggest a person up their "want to," or increase their motivation to break the bondage to which they have become accustomed?

"Fear is a condition of the heart and mind. It is debilitating. It robs you of energy. It distorts how you see things and disrupts your ability to make wise decisions." Discuss.

"Fear is the result of giving your attention to the wrong thing." Discuss.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"Perfect," as John uses it to describe the kind of love that dispels fear, means "fullness," not "flawless." How does that help you?

When David invited God to help him examine his life, he specifically asked God to identify the things that made him anxious and fearful, the areas of sin that separated him from God and people, and then direct him in the way of life (Psalm 139:23-24). How do the fears, wounds, and sins in our lives keep us from truly living?

Clearly, God is not interested in waving a magic wand over our lives and giving us healing/freedom without our participation. The man Jesus healed had to participate with his "want to" and follow it up with action. Where do you tend to lose out? in a deep and motivating desire, or in willingness to take the necessary action? Why?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Discuss personal areas needing freedom and healing.
- 2) Help each other think through personal disciplines and actions that will help.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Jesus didn't come just to forgive us but to free us.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Proverbs 16:3

Tuesday: Psalm 51:6; John 8:31-32

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:32

Thursday: Romans 6:12-13; Romans 12:2

Friday: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)