

apptoteach.org

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

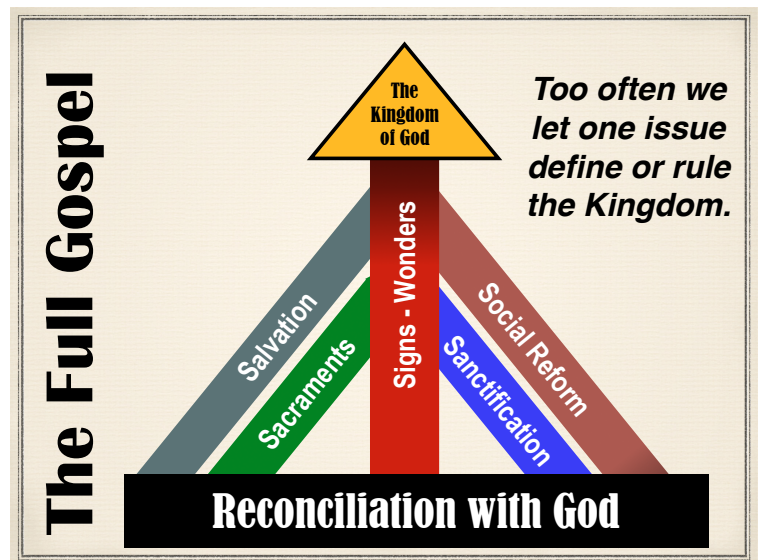
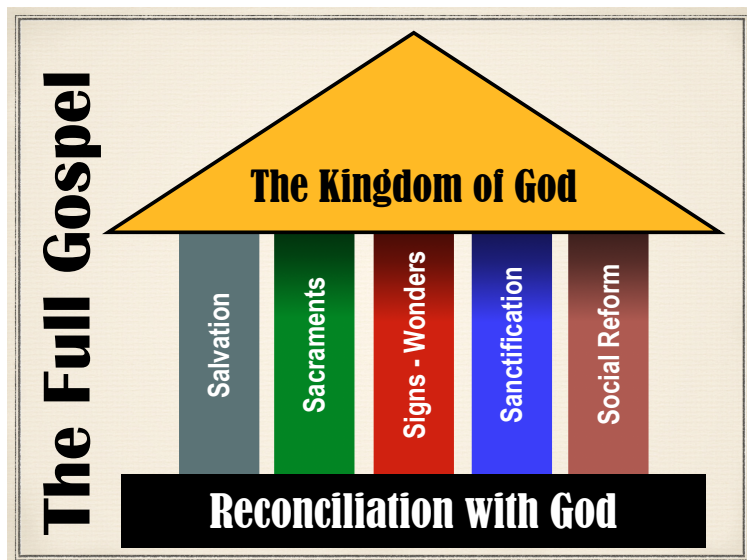
**John 5:10-18**  
**Lesson #18**  
**Responding to a blessing**  
**11/15/2015**



## How should we pray for healing?

1. Pray to be aligned with Christ's values.
2. Pray to be sensitive to the core needs.
3. Pray with humble submission to God's sovereign purposes.
- 4.

Cast all cares on God with faith that He will bring His blessing.



### Context

John 5:8-9

“Jesus said to him, “Arise, take up your pallet, and walk.” And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.”

Event	Matt.	Mark	Luke	John
Disciples plucked ears of grain	12:1-8	2:23-28	6:1-5	
Jesus heals paralytic				5:1-18
Jesus heals withered hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jewish circumcision				7:22-23
Jesus heals a blind man				9:1-34
Jesus heals bent over woman			13:10-17	
Jesus heals man with dropsy			14:1-6	

John 5

“<sup>10</sup> Therefore the Jews were saying to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.””

- The Jews are quoting from the Mishna** (a collection of Rabbinical teachings) **not the Law.**
- Note that the Jews ignored the “healing sign” of Jesus’ identity but focused on the “violation” of their tradition (carrying the pallet).**

This is a critical point for our application of this text to our lives.



The main thing  
is to keep the main thing,  
the main thing.

Major of majors,  
minor on minors.

1.  
Laws serve principles  
that serve purposes.

2.  
Legalism is the fruit of unclear  
purposes and principles.

3.  
Keep the Devil out of the details  
with clear purposes and principles.

4.  
Matthew 4:1-11 is exhibit "A".

### John 5

"<sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; **it is these that testify about Me**; <sup>40</sup> and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life."

### Matthew 23:24

"You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"

<sup>11</sup> But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk.'" <sup>12</sup> They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" <sup>13</sup> But he who was healed did not know who it was; for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place.

- **This man did not even know Jesus and yet he was healed.**

"<sup>14</sup> Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may befall you.'"

- **The man's illness apparently was related to his sin and yet after being healed he still needed a warning to repent.**

"<sup>15</sup> The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup> And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath."

- **Note the differing responses to God's healing by the Jews and this healed man compared with the healing in 4:46-54.**

John 4:46-54 The Nobleman's Son	John 5:1-18 The man at the pool
He and his family place their faith in Jesus.	He turns Jesus in to the Jewish authorities.

"<sup>17</sup> But he answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I myself am working.'" <sup>18</sup> For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."

- **The Jews understood that only God could work on the Sabbath (sustaining His creation).**
- **Jesus claims to be the Son of God, which was understood to be equal with God.**
- **John's Gospel is a study in contrasts. While many were responding to Jesus with faith, the religious authorities were ignoring his signs and condemning Him.**



*2 Peter 2:1*

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

- Many who have shared in the grace of God may fail to acknowledge it or even deny him.

*Romans 1:21*

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or **give thanks**, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

“in everything **give thanks**; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

It is not the trouble we see or  
the blessings we receive that  
define our true condition.

It is how we  
respond to  
them.

*2 Peter 2:1*

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

*Hebrews 6*

“<sup>4</sup> For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since **they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.**”

- Those who fail to abide in the grace of Christ feel they must be reconverted after sinning.

It is not happy people who  
are thankful

It is thankful  
people who are  
happy.



### *There is a personal lesson for us*

1. Many of us have been recipients of many blessings without recognizing that they came from God's grace.
2. Like this man we may have left the scene changed in our physical circumstances but not in our spiritual perspectives.  
**Illustration:** the unforgiving servant of Matt.18:21-35.
3. Furthermore we may have cast Jesus aside as irrelevant to everyday life.

### *There is a cultural lesson for us*

1. When we lose sight of the principles and purposes of the Kingdom, we may reduce the Christian life to TRADITIONS and RULES.
2. When a culture loses its commitment to its moral roots, it tends to try to keep order through an endless creation of rules (laws) and litigation.
3. Our churches and our country do not do well when we break from a personal moral conscience and govern life by artificial traditions and rules.

### *How can I know if I need to hear this?*

1. Do I tend to reduce the Kingdom of God to rules and traditions?
2. Do I genuinely respect Christians that are outside my particular tradition?
3. Am I sensitive to and thankful for the little things that represent God's blessing in my life?
4. How do I respond when other Christians critique my definition of the "full Gospel"?

### *What can I do to correct this?*

1. Give attention to the way Jesus related to people and to whom he related.
2. Honestly study the whole Scripture to understand the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
3. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude for little things.



“for as often as you do  
this in remembrance  
of me”