

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home 2: The Deeper Paralysis

Keep your Week 1 sheet safe, box folded. We will need it.

What We Found

The novelist David Foster Wallace told a graduating class at Kenyon College in 2005 that everybody worships something, and that most of the available options eat you alive. Then we watched four friends dig through a roof because the door was blocked, and heard Jesus say the strangest sentence in Mark's Gospel: with a paralyzed man in front of Him, "My son, your sins are forgiven" first, and "rise" second. We found the pairing already waiting in Psalm 103, the God who forgives all your iniquity and heals all your diseases, and we took the scribes' logic seriously: only God can forgive sins, because sin is finally against God. Jesus then healed the man in public, on the record, as evidence for the part nobody could see. Piece Two went on the table: something in us is genuinely broken, and calling it sickness is the hopeful option, because sickness is the one category that allows for a physician.

The Story So Far

Piece One: You were made, on purpose, for a relationship with God; the restlessness is a homing signal. Piece Two: Something real stands between us and what we were made for. The Bible calls it sin, an offense against God and a failure in love that separates us from Him, and it treats sin as a disease with a physician, not a verdict without appeal.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Ignatius of Antioch *Letter to the Ephesians, 7 (c. AD 107)*

"There is one Physician, of flesh and of spirit... Jesus Christ our Lord."

St. John Chrysostom *Homilies on Matthew (summary)*

Preaching on this healing, he points to the order of Christ's words: the soul is treated before the body, because its disease is older and deadlier.

St. Augustine *Confessions, Book 2 (summary)*

His famous analysis of a pointless teenage theft: sin is love bent out of shape, which is why information alone never cures it.

Live It This Week

1. One week, your own standards only. Just notice.
2. Thank the person who once carried you, in any form you like.
3. Optional: read Matthew 16:13-20 before next time.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” Mark 2:17

Before Next Session

Read **Matthew 16:13-20**. Jesus asks the one question this whole study has been circling, and He asks it directly.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 1849, 1850, 1421.