

SUMMER Q & A
August 25, 2013

How Can I Overcome Loneliness?

John 5:1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.

2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches.

3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches, waiting for a certain movement of the water,

4 for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had.

5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

7 “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

8 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,

10 so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

11 But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

Stop Making Excuses

Basically Three Reasons For Loneliness

A _____ Of Life

A _____ Decision

A _____ Battle

Isaiah 59:1 Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.

2 It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Start Obeying God

Be _____ In Your Choice Of Friends

Psalm 119:63 I am a friend to anyone who fears you - anyone who obeys your commandments.

Be _____ In Your Commitment

Proverbs 17:17 A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Be _____ In Your Relationships

1 Thessalonians 2:4 For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

5 Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money!

6 As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

John 15:12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Be _____ For Yourself

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Galatians 5:13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Be _____ In Your Encouragement

Romans 12:9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

John 14:15 “If you love me, obey my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.