

UPSIDE DOWN GLORY



“The Canvas of Glory”

February 8, 2026

Text: *John 5:1-13; 9:1-7*

Sermon Series: “Upside Down Glory.”

Pastor Bob Erbig

INTRODUCTION: Crisis at 16 Weeks

- The natural question: *Did we do something wrong?*
- Simultaneously, we can know, in our minds, that it is for God’s glory—and also be angry, sad, crushed, and despondent.
- *Why does God allow disability?*

1. The Pool of BETHESDA (John 5:1-13)

- A place meant for healing becomes a place of waiting.
- A man disabled for 38 years is seen by Jesus.
- Jesus asks: *“Do you want to be healed?”*
- The deeper issue is not just physical healing, but spiritual sight.
- Systems may fail, but Jesus does not.

2. The Pool of SILLOAM (John 9:1-7)

- Disciples assume disability is the result of sin
- Jesus rejects blame and points to God’s purpose
- The question shifts from *“Why did this happen?”* to *“What will God do through this?”*
- Jesus brings light, healing, and new creation
- The blind man’s testimony: *“I was blind, now I see”*

3. The Light of the WORLD (John 9:5)

- Jesus reveals God’s glory through those the world overlooks.
- Disability is not outside God’s mission—it is part of it.
- The church is called to remove barriers and bring people to Jesus.

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A Call to Action (This Week)

- Trust Jesus with both your pain and your questions.
- Look for those who are waiting and overlooked.
- Be part of what God is doing through unexpected places and people.

Big Idea: *Jesus sees the overlook, restores the forgotten, and he sends the church to do the same.*

4-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1: John 5:1–9

Jesus sees those who have been waiting a long time.

Day 2: John 9:1–3

God's purposes are greater than our assumptions.

Day 3: John 9:4–7

Jesus brings light and new creation.

Day 4: John 9:24–38

Living as witnesses to what Jesus has done.

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