

WEEK 1 — TOO COMFORTABLE

Comfort can become the greatest enemy of your calling.

Scripture Reading: John 5:1–6

Introduction

Today, we begin a series called GET UP, and over these three weeks, we're going to talk about something that can happen in our spiritual lives without us even realizing it: becoming accustomed to where we are. In John 5, we find the story of a man who had been sick for 38 years. This man was beside the Pool of Bethesda, a place where many sick people gathered, waiting to be healed.

Imagine his situation for a moment. After so many years, his condition had surely affected every area of his life. He had learned to live with his limitations and with the hope that one day his circumstances would change.

One day, Jesus approached him and asked him a very particular question: "Do you want to be made well?" It seems like an overly simple question for someone who had been sick for so many years. However, Jesus was inviting him into a different reality.

And although this story speaks about physical healing, it also invites us to reflect on our spiritual condition. Sometimes we can spend years attending church, listening to sermons, participating in activities, and receiving from God, but never taking steps to grow or become involved in His work. We become accustomed to showing up, sitting down, receiving, and going back home.

And without realizing it, what began as a season of rest can become a lifestyle in which we stop moving forward.

1. Comfort can cause us to stop growing.

Not all comfort is bad. God also gives us seasons of rest, restoration, and preparation.

The problem begins when we use our comfort as a reason to avoid what God is calling us to do. It's possible to know a lot about the Bible,

faithfully attend church, and still remain spiritually stagnant. We may begin to feel that our responsibility ends with simply being present on Sundays. But following Jesus involves much more than attending a gathering. It means allowing our faith to transform the way we live and relate to others.

2. We can enjoy the fruit of serving without participating in it.

Think about everything that happens so we can enjoy a Sunday service. There are people who arrive early to prepare the building, clean the bathrooms, welcome families, care for children, arrange chairs, cook food, take out the trash, prepare worship, run sound, and make sure everything is ready.

Many times, we enjoy all of this without stopping to consider the sacrifice behind it. And although we cannot all serve in the same way, we all have something we can contribute.

Ephesians 4:16 reminds us that the body of Christ grows when every member fulfills their role. The church was not designed to depend solely on the efforts of a few people, but for everyone to participate according to the gifts and abilities God has given them.

3. Jesus calls us to consider a different life.

Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be made well?" Today, we can ask ourselves a similar question: Do we truly want to grow and move forward in our relationship with God?

Because growth often requires change. Perhaps it means reorganizing our priorities, making time to serve, learning something new, or leaving behind the fear of getting involved. It's easy to say that we want God to do great things in our church. But we must also ask ourselves whether we're willing to participate in what we're asking Him to do.

Conclusion

God has not called us only to receive blessings, but also to become a blessing to others.

Perhaps today is the moment to recognize that we've become comfortable in certain areas of our spiritual lives. This isn't about comparing ourselves to others or feeling guilty. It's about allowing God to awaken in us once again the desire to grow and serve.

Don't allow today's comfort to keep you from walking in the purpose God has for your life.

Interactive Questions

1. How can we recognize when healthy rest has turned into spiritual comfort? Have you experienced that difference in your own life?
2. What would happen to our church if everyone decided to simply attend and receive, but no one was willing to serve? What does this teach us about our responsibility as members of the body of Christ?
3. What area of your life would you need to reorganize or surrender to God to become more involved in His work? What has kept you from doing so until now?

Weekly Challenge: IDENTIFY YOUR COMFORT

This week, take a moment to honestly evaluate your participation in God's work. Think about everything you receive through the church and the people who make it possible for others to be blessed.

Your challenge: Identify one area where you've become spiritually comfortable and think about what you would need to change to begin serving. Throughout this week, pray and ask God to show you where you can be useful.

Remember: The first step toward leaving your comfort zone is recognizing that you've become comfortable.