**The greatest thing that could happen to you**

**Opening text: John 5:1-24**

1. **This is the picture of a man living his worst-case scenario.**

A ‘worst-case scenario’ is when someone is faced with the most severe, most unpleasant, worst possible outcome in a given situation.

* Sick for 38 years
* No hope of healing
* His company were other suffering people – a depressive environment
* Waiting for the move of the angel, waiting for the move of the water… waiting, waiting, waiting 38 years!
* Marginalised – again and again, year after year, he can’t be part of the feast. He can’t be in the temple with the crowd. He has to be with this other crowd of sick people.

1. **Jesus came into that picture**

Jesus came into this man’s worst-case scenario**.** He could have joined the feast but he joined those who couldn’t go to the feast. In fact, He came to the worst possible case in the room and healed him.

The Gospels show always Jesus coming into people’s most severe and unpleasant circumstances and overturning what could be the worst possible outcome for them.

1. **Jesus came again to reveal the ‘full picture’ to this man**

Let us read now **verses 14:** ***14****Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”*

**Jesus finds him again**

Jesus still came looking for him. The man didn’t know who had healed him (v.12-13). He still needed to know Jesus. He seemed to have overcome his worst-case scenario in this life, however where was he going to spend eternity? The man had been healed but could die unsaved. An eternity without God is the true and ultimate worst-case scenario for anyone. Jesus came to that one also. He came to save us.

**‘See, you have been made well’**

Jesus points him to the reality of what he received. How important it is to acknowledge the grace of God in our lives. The man was now in the temple, no longer at the sheep gate, he was now celebrating and feasting with a different crowd.

**‘Sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you’**

A ‘worse thing’? is there a worst-case scenario than being sick 38 years? - Yes, eternity outside Jesus is a very long time away from God and a much greater torment than sickness. Eternity without God is the true, ultimate, worst-case scenario.

Jesus dealt with both sides of this man’s tragedy: the natural and the spiritual, the temporary and the eternal. We trust in Jesus not just for this life for also the one to come.

**Let us now read verses 17, 19-20: *17****But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*

***19****Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.****20****For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

**Greater works than these**

What do you mean ‘greater works than these’? This is the story of an outstanding miracle: a man sick for 38 years, immobilised on a mat, completely hopeless and helpless was instantly healed. The people at the pool had never seen anything like this: they had seen the water move but here they saw Jesus move.

Is there a greater work than healing? Yes. Salvation is. Eternal life is! That is what Jesus points to in the following verses:

**Verses 21 and 24: *21****For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.*

***24****“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

As much as healings and miracles are important and a sign of the love of God for us, there is a greater work than healing or any temporal blessing we may receive. Heaven is the greatest expression of God’s love for us. To have our names in the book of life is the best-case scenario we can ever find ourselves in. To have Jesus come to us, find us in our condition and reveal Himself to us is the ultimate sign of God’s love.

**Conclusion**

Let us appreciate our salvation! How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Hebrews 2:3). When people appreciate their salvation, they also appreciate the salvation of others.

**V.15** - ***15****The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.*

He told the Jews about Jesus.