

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

Text: John 5:1-18

Do You Want to Be Made Well?

1. They've been married for years...

- a. But at dinner time all you can hear is the sound of clinking silverware...
- b. If They Actually Forgave One Another They Could Find Happiness...

But Then Would Have to Admit they were Wrong—so they sit in silence

2. The Kids Are Grown and Left But Won't Talk To their Parents Anymore...

- a. The son is Waiting for an Apology from the father—
and the father is waiting for an apology from the son.
- b. The daughter is Waiting for an Apology from the mother—
and the mother is waiting for an apology from the daughter.
- c. They haven't spoken in years...

3. We Live in a Broken World — full of broken people...

- a. Broken Marriages... Broken Families... Broken Relationships...
- b. Broken Lives... Broken Dreams... Broken Hearts

Did You Think God Intended for us to Lead 'lives of quiet desperation'...?

It is in Our Brokenness, Jesus asks — Do You Want to Be Made Well?

I. MAN'S DESPERATION (v.1–5)

A. THE POOL...

1. This was a Pool in Jerusalem... Called 'The Pool of Bethesda'

- a) In Aramaic, Bethesda means "house of grace" and in Hebrew, "house of mercy."

2. This Pool Has Been Found By Archeologists

Exactly as John Described it... with five porches (NKJ)

"The excavations of a pool near the Sheep Gate have uncovered five porticoes or covered colonnades, confirming the accuracy of the description given here in the Fourth Gospel." (BKC)

3. It Had Five Porches that were filled with Sick & Diseased people

B. THE NEED...

1. There were the BLIND — who could not see.
2. There were the LAME — who could not walk.
3. There were the PARALYZED — who were deformed and disabled.
4. Crowded with the Sick & Diseased, the poor and beggarly —
—who had no money for doctors

- a) Who Believed that if they entered the pool at just the right day and just the right time they would be healed
- b) People who Year after year have tried and failed to be healed
- c) People Who Held on to Hope for a Miracle

C. THE DESPERATION...

- 1. We Live in a Broken World — of Sickness & Suffering — Disease & Death**
 - a) Broken Hearts... Broken Dreams.. Broken Lives...
 - 2. It is SELFISHNESS That Has Broken Our Lives, Relationships & Hearts**
 - a) A Wife Gets Cancer — so her husband leaves her for another woman
 - b) A Husband gets injured and Loses His Job, his Income, his Self-worth
— His Wife leaves him for another man
 - c) A Husband and Wife Lose a Child—but instead of comforting one another—they
Blame one another, and drift apart
 - d) A Selfish Child Breaks Their Parents Hearts... It Never Stops! It Never Ends!
 - 3. God Knows Every Tear, Every Hurt, Every Prayer, Every Broken Heart**
 - a) This is Why They Are Gathered at the Pool of Bethesda
 - b) They Had No Where Else to Turn — Except Hope for a Miracle from God
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II. CHRIST'S COMPASSION (v.6–9)

A. HIS COMPASSION (v.6a)

- 1. Jesus Could've Spent His Time with the Upper Classes in Jerusalem**
 - a) The Wealthy, the Powerful, the Connected, the Educated
 - b) The Respectable People, the Beautiful; People, the Rich People
- 2. But Here He is with the Sick People... the Blind People...**
 - a) The Lame and Paralyzed People
 - b) The Poor and Outcast People...
- 3. And Here is a Man Who Has Suffered for 38 Years!**
 - a) A Lot of People Would've Given Up Hope after 8 years—not 38!
 - b) And He Had NO ONE to Help Put Him in the Water
 - c) Have You Suffered Like This? I Haven't — not like this

B. HIS QUESTION (v.6-7)

- 1. Why Does Jesus Ask Him this Question? –Do You Want to be Made Well?**
 - a) At First He Tries to Explain... — I try but it Never Works...
If I Can Make it in the Water First I Would Be Healed — But I Can't!
- 2. Don't We Think This Way As Well? —**
 - a) I HAVE A PLAN – For My Life To Get Better!
If You'll Help Me with My Plan Then My Life Will Be Better
 - b) But It Hasn't Worked in 38 Years! But I'm Not Giving Up!
I'm Going to Keep Trying My Man-Made, Self-Made, Self-centered Plan!

C. HIS COMMAND (v.8-9)

- 1. 'Rise, Take Up Your Bed and Walk' –WHAT? You Mean Do The Impossible?**
 - a) Jesus Commands This Man to Do the Impossible!
To Stand Up and Walk and He Does!
 - b) "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

2. **THIS IS WHAT REAL FAITH LOOKS LIKE — OBEDIENCE (5:9)**

‘And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.’

- a) He Didn't Hesitate... He Didn't Ask Why...
- b) He Didn't Debate Jesus over faith verses works!

3. **He Just Did Exactly As Jesus Commanded... He commanded 3 things:**

(1) RISE, (2) TAKE UP HIS BED, (3) and WALK —> He Did All 3!

4. **But Why Ask Him to Take Up His Bed If He Could Walk?**

(1) IT WAS PROOF OF TOTAL RECOVERY

Not Only Could He Walk, He Could Carry His Mat

(2) PROOF OF IDENTITY This Was the Man Who Had Been Crippled 38 Years

(3) PROOF OF FAITH His Trust in Christ to Obeyed What Jesus Commanded

III. OUR DESPERATION IS MET BY CHRIST'S COMPASSION

A. **DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL?**

1. **SOME Would Say—> Why Would I Want to be Made Well?**

- a) I'm Successful, I'm Not as Bad as those people... **I'm Fine the way I Am** w/o God.
- b) OTHERS Would Say—**I Already Have A Plan**...I'm Working On MY PLAN
- c) Some Would Say—**I'm Comfortable** Where I'm At—I Don't Want to Change

2. **It's a Valid Question... Not Everyone Wants to be Made Well!**

- a) Not Every Jobless Person Wants a Job
- b) Not Every Homeless Person Wants a Home
- c) Not Every Addict Wants to Be Sober
- d) Not Every Protestor Wants Peace
- e) Not Every Sinner Wants Forgiveness
- f) Not Every Christian Wants to Serve God

3. **Not Every Hurting Person Wants to Forgive (and be healed)**

- a) **If a Hurt Person** Were To Actually Forgive—then They Wouldn't Have any Grievance to Use as Leverage Against the person their angry with!
- b) **If a Wife forgave her husband**—then she couldn't hold it over his head anymore and **if a Husband forgave his wife**—He couldn't hold it over her anymore
- c) **If a Child Forgave their Parents** They Couldn't Use it against them anymore!

So the Question has to be asked—Do You Even Want to Be Healed? –ANSWER: NO!

→ Why Would I Want to Give Up My Addiction that comforts me?

→ Why Would I Want to Forgive Someone Who Hurt Me?

→ Why Would I Want to Give Up the Anger & Bitterness that Empowers Me?

I've Spent 38 Years Developing that Resentment—I Worked Hard for that

4. **Even Some in Jesus Day Did Not Want to Be Made Well (Jn 5:39-40)**

- a) They Studied the Bible... They Thought They Were God's People
- b) But they Were NOT Willing to Surrender Their Own Self-Centered Plan

Do You Want to Be Made Well?

B. THEN TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST

1. Jesus Told this man to Arise, Take Up Your Bed and Walk...

He Tells Us to Do Something Similar but Different (Matthew 16:24–26)

- a) Deny Yourself...
- b) Take Up Your Cross
- c) and Follow Christ

2. BUT I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS....

- a) What Does it Mean 'Take Up Your Cross' & Why Does Jesus Command it?
- b) And Why Then Would Jesus Also Say: '**Come unto me All you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light?**'
- c) How is Carrying Your Cross Easy or a burden that is light? (Mat 11:28–30)

3. ANSWER: To Carry Your Cross—Means to Deny Yourself

a) It Simply Means 'Say NO to Self'

- (1) To Say No To Selfishness... No to Selfish Ambition
- (2) No to Selfish love of Ease and Comfort
- (3) Stop Gratifying Your Selfish Desires
- (4) Stop Gratifying your Selfish Pride By Insisting on Your Own Self-Centered Plan to Heal Yourself!

b) Why Would Jesus Command This Of Us?

4. If You Refuse to Deny Yourself—Then Your Still Carrying the Full Burden of Your Past, your Sin, Your Guilt and your Condemnation

- a) Plus All the Other Baggage and Drama and Bitterness You Picked up along the way!
- b) By Trying to "Save" Your own Life... You Loose It!

5. But If You Deny Yourself and Obey the Command of the Lord—

That Burden of your Past, your sin, guilt & condemnation is taken away

- a) Everything You Have Ever Done Against God is Washed Away, Taken Away, Forgiven and Forgotten by God!
- b) By Giving up your life to the Lord—you will save it!
- c) How Important is That?

C. YOUR SOUL IS WORTH MORE THAN EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD

1. Your Worth Does not come from what other people think of you

- a) Your Worth is not from worldly success or earthly gain...
- b) Your Worth is Not from Social status or popularity...
- c) Your Worth is not from your physical appearance or bodily health...

2. Your Worth is intrinsic because God created you in His image...

- a) You are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!
- b) And Even if you Did gain the whole world—it wouldn't be enough
- c) Don't Sell Your Soul for a bowl of porridge
- d) Don't Be Lot's Wife! Don't Look Back

D. NO ONE WORKS HARDER FOR YOU THAN GOD DOES

- 1. Jesus Healed This Man, but They Criticized Him for healing on Sabbath day**
 - a) And Jesus Told Them, My Father is Working and I Am Working (5:17)
- 2. God Does Not Rest From Helping His People!**
 - a) He Created this Universe... He Created You... The air you breathe, your heart that pumps, your mind that inquires...
 - b) Everything you need God has provided! Everything You Have is from God
 - c) But Usually People Give God the Blame instead of the Credit!
- 3. WHY ARE WE LIVING LIVES OF QUIET DESPERATION?
WHEN WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US!**
 - a) Why Are We Gathered Around Our TV Sets and Internet...
the Way These People Were Gathered Around the Pool of Bethesda?
 - b) Why Would We Want the Gospel Entertainment, or Social Networking?
Did We Exchange Caesar Worship for Celebrity Worship?
the Gospel of Oprah, or Mark Zuckerberg, or Whoever: Fill in the Blank
 - c) **Why Would We Reject the Perfect Blood of Our Savior for Our Own Weak and Worthless plans to save ourself apart from God?**
 - d) It Doesn't Even Make Good Nonsense...
You Could Waste 38 Years of Dead Ends like that...
You Life is Vapor—where will you be for eternity?
- 4. No One Works Harder for You than God Does—
and no one gets less credit for it than He does!**

You Have to WANT to be Made Well

You Have to Want to Praise Him in Worship

You Have to Want to Know Him in the Study of His Word

When You Do—God Will Work in Your Life! (Philippians 1:6; 2:13)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. You Are Not Alone—and You Won't Have to Bear this Alone**
- 2. IF We Want to be Made Well—He Will Help Us! (Isaiah 41:10)**
- 3. And He Will Not Give Up the Work He Began in Us**