

Do You Want to Be Healed?

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John 5:1-15

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. (John 5:1-9 NIV 11)

-This is the third sign that Jesus is performing in public. Jesus came back to Jerusalem after some time, for a Jewish feast. (We don't know which feast but looking to the context, I'll say it is the Sabbath).

-Location: **Sheep Gate**, The Sheep Gate was located near the north-east corner of the old city of Jerusalem.

We arrive to this location, and there is a pool for healing. This pool called **Bethesda** (house of mercy).

Here we go to we face the water again. We had water in the wedding, baptism with the water and the spirit, water in the well, living water, and now water in the pool.

-By the way, archaeologists found this pool's location. “It was a double pool, generally identified with the pools excavated near St Anne's Church just inside St. Stephen's Gate of present-day Jerusalem.”¹(Tyndale comment)

-Where is Jesus visiting?

Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. (John 5:3 NIV 11)

Some manuscripts add:

“and they waited for the moving of the waters’. Other manuscripts add also the words ‘From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters.’” ²(Tyndale)

Was this “pool” really healing the people? It seems there were some who believed, and they were there for healing...

I know that people believe in different things that not necessarily biblical. In Lebanon, where I used to live, was a church called St. *Charbel* that had a spring of water. People believed if you drank that water during a certain time of the year, you would be healed. You can find stories like this all over the world.

- We arrive to **our unnamed disabled man**. This man has been sitting by this pool for **38 years**. *Those are the years the Israelites were in the wilderness*. This guy has been waiting a very long time to be healed. He is disabled, cannot move fast; always someone before him jumps in the water. Please picture how sad is his condition. Around that pool there are a lot of disable people and most likely some animals like sheep. Now imagine the smell of that pool!

And that is exactly where Jesus goes.

Jesus approaches this man and asks him a great question:

“Do you want to get well?”

Why in the world is Jesus asking this question? The answer is obvious. Right? He should answer, **“Of course. Please heal me.”** He did not answer that way.

a. You know sometimes when we stay for a long time in a certain condition, we get used to it. It could be this became this man’s identity. 38 long years...

b. The man does not recognize Jesus and his power for healing. So he starts to explain, “No one helps me, I am alone...” this and that.

That was not the question Jesus asked, the question one more time:

Do you want to get well?

Let me ask you (PACC) again.

What do you want from Jesus? Do you want to get well?

Isn’t that same question Jesus would ask Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman?

The words of Jesus are strong: **“Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”**

The Greek tense for these verbs is aorist imperative...get up, pick up, walk...

The man did and was immediately healed.

Interesting, I don't know if the man had a conversion, or understood if Jesus was the Messiah. We don't even see the word "believe" here...He just obeyed Jesus' command.

**-On which day did this happen?
Sabbath.**

Oh no.... this is going to cause problems.... wrong day.... And indeed:

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,¹⁰ and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." (John 5:9b-10 NIV 11)

Are you kidding me? You have seen this man healed, 38 years of suffering, and you tell him the law forbids you to carry your mat.

What's wrong with these people? How long will they worship laws and not God?

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. (Matthew 23:23 NIV11)

Please notice their priorities. They just missed the point of the law its application.

-The man's reply:

¹¹ But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' " ¹² So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. (John 5:11-15 NIV 11)

Something has happened in this man's life, and because of that sin he has been disabled. We should be careful about this. In John 9, the disciples ask Jesus if the blind man is blind because of his sin or his parents? Jesus said neither, then Jesus said: this is happening so that the works of God might be displayed in him.... Careful with the theology sickness and suffering. Let us not conclude that each sickness is result of sin.

Sometimes God allows it as an attack of the enemy to demonstrate character like Job's. In 1st Peter, suffering is introduced so that God refines our faith and character.

-Jesus' Authority and Equality with God

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." ¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:16-18 NIV 11)

No wonder the Jews had issues with Jesus.

-He broke the Sabbath.

-It is blasphemy. Why? Jesus was calling God his own father and making himself equal with God.

"Israel could call God as father in a national sense, but to call God your own personal father was outside the Jewish mentality, that's foreign to Jewish thinking until Jesus who claims God as his own father."³

-God is working on Sunday. "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."

I hope God works on Sunday the day we worship collectively. I hope God works on Sunday when I'm preaching.... Oh yes, that is comforting for me to say....

-Jesus is equal with God and has the same authority. Jesus will give **seven claims⁴ about that: (19-28)**

1.The works that he does.

Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (19)

2.The knowledge he possesses.

For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

3.The power to raise the dead.

²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life,

4.The responsibility of judgment.

5.The right of equal honor.

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. (5:22-23)
-Honoring Jesus and worship him is priority. There is no other way.

6.The ability to give eternal life.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. (5:24 NIV 11)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV 11)

7.The attribute of self-existence

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (John 5:26 NIV 11)

-Five witnesses to Jesus Christ ⁵

Then Jesus gives 5 witnesses about who he is. In the Bible, in the Jewish tradition we need only two witnesses to prove something. Jesus gives five. Please read rest of the chapter (31-47). Here is the summary:

- 1.Jesus himself
- 2.the ministry John the Baptist
- 3.the miracles works of Jesus
- 4.the testimony of the father
- 5.the truth of scripture Moses

Application:

- a. Do you want to be healed? Do you want to get well?

Sometimes we are “paralyzed” and we stay “paralyzed”. 38 years, long years, we say we want to be healed or change, but we remain in that condition, that condition becomes “secure”. We find comfort in self-pity.

Jesus is asking this morning: Do you want to be healed?

In 38 years, the wilderness became their home. God has new place for us. Stand up, take your mat, and walk...

This mean new life, new creation, rebirth, allowing streams of water to change your heart.

- b. Can you take stand as Jesus did to “heal” the man when the everyone was against him. Ask Jesus to give you courage to stand on biblical foundation, even thou society can reject you. Be like Jesus in caring for your neighbor .

1.Colin Kruse, Tyndale Commentary on John

2.ibid

3.Dr. Mark Bailey, Dallas Theological Seminary, on line course, Gospel of John

4.ibid

5.ibid