

We are NOT in Joshua today . . .

Spc141 – **Do You Want To Be Made Well? – John 5:1-15**

Questions – to **start** today

That **THING** – that's **Gnawing** at you – even this **Morning**
That **Deep-Seated** – **Lingering Issue** in your life . . .

The **question Jesus** has for you **today** is
Do You Really Want To Be Made Well?

Or – has that “**Thing**” become **such a part** of your life
That **you've just** learned to “**live with it**” ?

If Jesus were to **offer** today – to Make You **WELL**
To **HEAL** you – in **that area** of your Life

Would you be READY – To RESPOND
In **Complete FAITH?**
& in **Complete OBEDIENCE?**

That's where we're going to **today**

Let's Pray

In the gospel of John a **lot of ministry** has occurred
before we get to **Ch 5**

& as we **open** up **Jn 5 today**
Jesus is heading **BACK** to **Jerusalem**

& we FIND OUT as we continue to READ
that Jesus is headed there with a very clear purpose

Jesus was going to PROVE that he is God in the flesh
Co-Existent God in nature, in power, and in authority

& the text we're looking at today
is actually the 'kick off' of that purpose

& so we start in - John 5:1 (NLT)

1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.

Jesus is going UP to Jerusalem - for One of the Three
Jewish Holy Days – All Jewish males are req to attend

WHICH Holy Day is not important to John's context right now

But we know Jesus is going to begin – what is ultimately
the FINAL show-down with the Pharisees

In the northeast corner of the Wall Surrounding the Old City of
Jerusalem was the Sheep Gate (same area as Lion's Gate today)

This is where the animals for sacrifice were brought in
to be prepared to go to the temple.

& Near this gate was a natural spring pool
called the Pool Of Bethesda (or Bethsaida)

& there were five great porches built around this pool
with large steps going down to the water

& the masses of Broken & Needy people
would gather at this pool – Because of its 'Healing Legend'

The Pool Of Bethesda still exists today
It's one of our favorite stops when we go to Jerusalem
& it is always very powerful

(Dani's Testimony)

& so we read in John 5:2–3 (NLT)

2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches.

3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.

Now – in some of your Bibles

the explanation of the LEGEND is in V.3 & V.4

But the NLT & the ESV put this explanation in a FOOTNOTE

The NLT footnote says: [the crowds of sick people were] *waiting for a certain movement of the water, for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had.*

We don't know if this ever really happened
or if it was just a legend

Because Bethesda was a natural spring

so periodically the water would bubble up from underground,
which would've looked like the legend describes

Either way - There was a great multitude
of suffering – hurting - & pitiful people here

watching and waiting for their lives to be somehow
magically made better by the “stirring of the water” (the legend)

their hopes reduced to whatever their chance was
to knock someone else over - to get to the water first

It was a Microcosm – of a Broken, & Hopeless World

& into this very depressing scene
Steps – The Lord Jesus

& He apparently comes alone, possibly so he can
move easily thru the crowd of hurting people

& as He surveys this Depressing Scene of Needy People
He SEES . . . YOU!

He picks YOU out of the Crowd
& he makes his way thru the masses – to YOU!

BTW - You are being represented today
by a middle-aged, invalid man – STUCK in his illness

John 5:5 (NLT)

5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

The ESV says this man is an Invalid
Meaning; in some way – *Paralyzed by his illness*

The AMPLIFIED Bible says

John 5:5 (AMP)

5 There was a certain man there who had suffered with a deep-seated and lingering disorder for thirty-eight years.

Do you see why this man MAY represent YOU today?

Many of US – Have struggled with a deep-seated and lingering disorder – for a very long time

I don't know how long this man had been at the Legend Pool

But we know that he had carried this deep-seated and lingering disorder – for 38 years

& after 38 years, our deep seated & lingering disorders tend to kinda become – WHO we are

After an Extended time – our Struggles - & our Difficulties can end up DEFINING who we are

& this man – Paralyzed by his deep-seated & lingering disorder had all but given up - on any real hope

He laid at the “healing pool” – because that is what he did that is who he had become

and Jesus came looking for YOU! – I mean – HIM

Jesus came into the Mass of human suffering
& he came looking – for YOU

And the question Jesus asks this helpless & hopeless man
is the same question He wants to ask you today.

John 5:6(a) (NLT)

6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time . .

ONE of the Definitions for the ROOT Word translated “SAW” - Is:
to perceive or discern, to turn the mind, or attention to a thing

Jesus steps into the MASS of humanity
& he “Perceives” - he “Discerns” – YOU
& he turns his full attention to YOU

& then Jesus asks YOU the same question he asks this man

Again - John 5:6 (entire) (NLT)

*6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time,
he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”*

[ESV: Do you want to be healed?]

[NKJV: Do you want to be made well]

The Grk word for “Well” means
To be Healthy - in body or mind

It seems like a strange question, doesn't it?

Can you see this guy saying to Jesus
Uhhh, isn't that a little OBVIOUS?

You know - If you **see a man** stopped on the **side of the road**
with his head under the **hood of his car**

You **really SHOULDN'T ask** him if he's **having Car Trouble**
You **SHOULD** be able to **figure that one out**

And **I've never walked** into a **hospital** room
and **asked** a person if they **want** to **get well**

because it **seems** to be a **pretty good assumption**

But Jesus doesn't work on **assumptions**.

He is **looking** at the **Deepest Places** of our **Heart's**

And **here**, in **verse 6**, Jesus asks **YOU**
the Most Important Question

"DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL? . . .
& DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL, TODAY?"

This QUESTION - - & our Honest RESPONSE to it
May be behind more of our **"Paralysis in Life"**
than we might be **willing to admit**.

Remember, this **invalid man**
Who represents you and **me** . . .

After so long - he's actually **grown accustomed**
to his **deep-seated and lingering disorder** (amp)

I doubt he even **tries** to **be first** to the **water** any **more**

So - Jesus SEES – He Perceives, He Discerns - US
& He turns his full attention to US

& then he asks us – Do You WANT to be made well ?

& IF, in the deepest place in our heart, he SEES
That we are actually saying “Uh, no, not really”

then He will leave us in the same condition He found us
He will not force His healing on us

Is it possible to say on the outside that we want to be made well,
but on the inside for us to be (in some way) →

kinda nursing and protecting
that lingering disorder - that is paralyzing us.

Do you think Jesus is asking this man
for a casual, superficial response? - - NO !

Jesus is looking for a brutally honest response
from the deepest part of this man's heart,
& that is a place that only Jesus can SEE into

Sometimes – Our “Surface” Response - to this question
“Uncovers” our “True” Response

What if this man would've responded with Anger & Defensiveness?

“*What are You talking about? I'm here, aren't I
I'm doing what I can! What do you want from me?*”

Then Jesus would say ***“I want TRUTH, from the deepest place of your heart”*** - I want truth at that level.

“Do you REALLY want to be Made WELL?”

Or are you (for some reason) Protecting your **“Lingering Disorder”** or the sin that is paralyzing your life

The **FIRST STEP** to Jesus Making you well
is an honest answer - at the deepest level of our hearts
to the question from Jesus
“Do you (really) want to be made well?”

The **SECOND STEP** is an honest recognition
of our own INABILITY to **Make OURSELVES** Well.

John 5:7 (NLT)

7 “I can’t, sir,” (I can’t do it, I can’t make myself well) the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

Now – **Jesus Doesn’t Respond** to this statement -
But **He SEES** the **TRUTH** in this **man’s heart**

& I believe he sees **TWO key ingredients** in this man
For **our HEALING** - & **our NEW LIFE** in Christ

He sees SURRENDER - & **He sees BROKENNESS**

This man truly **DID want** to be **healed**,
& he **truly recognized** **His Inability** to make **HIMSELF well**

It may have taken him 38 years

But he finally accepted the fact

that he could NEVER make himself well – on his own

Maybe you've reached STEP ONE, where you've

truly and honestly said, *"I really do want to be made well"*

But then you've made the monstrous mistake of saying

"I'm going to REALLY start working on it."

"I'm going to really try hard."

Sometimes we really do want to be made well

but we want to do it our way

The Problem is - this is not Burger King

& the King of Kings is NOT that awkward little "Burger King"
who lets you have it 'your way.'

The reason you can't have it your way

is because your way doesn't work

& that is what this Invalid man finally realized

& Jesus - SAW his heart

This Man realized the utter hopelessness of his condition,

He was Truly Ready to be Made Well

& He realized he could NEVER do it on his own

STEP 1 – Honestly want to be made well;

STEP 2 – Honestly believe you cannot do it your way

STEP 3 – Exercise Total FAITH and Total OBEDIENCE

As far as the Bible is concerned
there is **no other way** to **Victory**

In **verses 8-9**, **Jesus** gives this man **opportunity**
to exercise **STEP THREE**. – **Faith** & **Obedience**

John 5:8 (NLT)

8 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

It's a **Simple Command** from **Jesus**
But it takes a **FULL MEASURE** of ***two things*** from **the man**

It takes **FULL FAITH** - & it takes **FULL OBEDIENCE**

This man really ***DID want*** to be **made well**
and he ***really KNEW*** he **could not do it** his **own way**

& there was **something different** about **this Teacher**
who had ***just SEEN him*** (personally) in the **crowd**

So he put his **FULL FAITH** in **Jesus** (*tho he didn't yet know his name*)
& he **put** his **FULL OBEDIENCE** in the **Command**

And (Istn Pls) **the instant** this man **Fully Believed**,
Jesus gave him **the Power** to **Fully Believe**

And the instant he Fully Obeyed,
Jesus gave him the power to Fully Obey

And as he Began To Stand - BY FAITH,
suddenly he had the Power To Stand

& after 38 years, in an instant, this man was made whole,
and he found himself standing on his feet

So – John 5:9(a) (NLT)

9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! . . .

After 38 years of pitiful 'wishful-thinking' at the "legend pool,"

This man jumped up, grabbed his cot, and went
walking and leaping and praising God, just as Jesus told him to

Unfortunately, WHILE he was

walking & leaping & praising God - with his cot,
he ran into the religious leaders - just as Jesus knew he would

So – John 5:9(b)-13 (NLT)

9 . . . But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,

10 so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!" (never mind he had been healed)

11 But he replied, "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' "

12 "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded.

(still no response to the healing) → →

13 The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd.

**Immediately – this man's healing was Ignored - & it was Challenged
& he was given reason to fall away & be discouraged**

**Suddenly he had to HOLD on to his Faith
& CONTINUE his Obedience
In the face of difficulty & persecution**

**Remember at the beginning I said
Jesus Had a PURPOSE for going to Jerusalem?**

Well – THIS is IT

**Jesus Healed this Man in order to USE him
He was Healed to be an Instrument of God**

**& what this man & this healing
BEGINS here with the Pharisees
ENDS with Jesus on the Cross**

**& you heard in Danielle's Testimony
from the Lord speaking to her on this same exact spot**

Dani said *"He healed me for a purpose, and made me new"*

**Not JUST Made Well
Made Well for the Glory of God**

& Then we finish – with a bit of a Scary Note

John 5:14 (NLT)

14 But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.”

I don't know if this man's infirmity
had something to do with his sin

but I do know a warning when I hear one
& this is a warning

Jesus Tracks this man down – In the Temple

& Jesus says to him, “***Now you are WELL - You've been delivered. You've been healed. Do not go back to the sin from which you were saved,***”

There are Numerous Warnings in the N.T.

About NOT returning to our sin once we've been healed

If you want to check a Scary One – Chk 2 Pet 2:20-22

It seems clear to me – that Jesus is Saying here

The FAITH - & OBEDIENCE that MADE you Well
You Must Continue to WALK IN

OR You will easily FALL BACK into
whatever Paralysis - Jesus Healed you from

The **Pool of Bethesda** represents **our**
feeble and **hopeless attempt** at **making ourselves** well

We say, ***“I’m going to get there, I’m going to fix this
and then everything’s going to be OK”***

NO IT’S NOT! You’re **going to remain**
spiritually paralyzed - **until the day you:**

- 1) **Stop protecting your sin**, and **truly want** to get well
- 2) **Recognize that you can’t** make **yourself** well
- 3) **Exercise Total FAITH** and **Total OBEDIENCE**
in **Jesus Christ** alone

Which must be done with a Continual Commitment
To - Moment-BY-Moment – **Be Walking in the Spirit**
& - Moment-by-Moment - **Be Crucifying the Flesh**

THEN you will **find yourself WELL**

& **you will go walking** and **leaping** and **praising God!**

Let’s Pray