

"Do you wish to get well?"

What I believe we will learn today in these verses is this:

JESUS SEARCHES OUT HELPLESS PEOPLE IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM COMPLETE HEALING.

There are seven facts of this account that I believe are important for us to look at.

Fact #1 - Jesus went to a place where needy people were. **5:1-5**

V. 1 - As we come to chapter 5, we find Jesus coming back to Jerusalem. He traveled south, but He went up in elevation. He came back to Jerusalem for a feast. It was a requirement of all Jewish males to attend the various feasts (Deut. 16:16). Jesus, as a Jewish man, was always obedient to the Word of God, so He was sure not to miss a required feast. John did not clarify what feast this was. Apparently, that was not important. John just wanted to point out why Jesus was headed back to Jerusalem.

V. 2 - The sheep gate is a gate in the wall of the city of Jerusalem. It was north of the temple and near the temple relative to the other gates. The gate is where the sheep would be brought in for sacrifices. John brings up the gate in order to give us a location of where the pool was that Jesus went to. In Hebrew, or Jewish Aramaic, the name of the pool was Bethesda. Bethesda means 'house of mercy.' Archeologists have excavated the pool described in this location and have found five covered porch like structures, verifying the accuracy of John's description.

V. 3 - This is a time before people had hospitals and medical care like we have today. Although there was some medical work taking place, it would have looked nothing like what is available today. In those days, people who were sick or in a handicapped state received very little help and were basically left on their own to be beggars.

V. 4 - These people made their way to the pool or were brought to the pool because there was some evidence of healing power.

V. 5 - We are introduced to the helpless man in verse five. There was one particular man there that Jesus sought out. This man had been ill with something that had prevented him from walking for 38 years.

Fact #2 - Jesus knew the man's condition. **5:6**

What John writes at the end of verse 6 is interesting. We get another glimpse of the fact that Jesus is God. Jesus knew this man's condition.

Fact #3 - Jesus asked the man if he wanted healing. **5:6**

Some people don't want to be made well. Whether you are a believer in Jesus or not, this question is for all of us. Do you really want God to transform your life for the better? Or would you rather go on without Jesus' help?

In some form or fashion, we are all helplessly in need. We all have our problems. And we all have a choice to make. We must decide if we want to be made well or not.

Fact #4 - The man revealed his hopeless state. **5:7**

He didn't say yes. He didn't say no. Instead, he says "I've tried. No one is willing to help me. I have lost hope. I can't get well. Others beat me to the water. I am too far gone. There is nothing I can do."

He implies that he wants to be made well, but what he makes more clear is that he is at the end of his rope. He says to God in the flesh, "I can't do it."

You might recognize that you are helpless. You might recognize that you are broken. You might recognize that you are needy. But until you recognize that you cannot do it, you will continue to try over and over, and you will fail. On our own, without Jesus, we fail. Every day, we need Jesus. We fail without His help. We fail unless He takes over and works through us and in us. Which brings us to our next fact.

Fact #5 - Jesus provided the cure for the man's condition. **5:8**

It's the moment when you speak to God and tell him you can't do it that Jesus shows up and provides for you the cure. He is the cure.

If you've never placed your trust in Jesus to completely save you, then here is your condition. You do not have eternal life (Eph. 2:8). You have resting on you the pending wrath of God (John 3:36). You're sick, and you need to be made well (Romans 5:6). Jesus says believe in Him and you will have eternal life (John 3:16). It is a decision of your mind to transfer all of your confidence onto Jesus and His work for you in dying on the cross and rising again. He did the work for you, you can't do it, just believe in Him. Don't try to earn it, don't try work for it, just accept the gift by faith (Romans 4:5). Believe in Jesus. Put all your trust in Him alone. Do that today.

Fact #6 - The man did as Jesus told him. **5:9**

I want you to notice the order of how this happened. Jesus declared this man to be healed. Immediately he was healed. This was before the man pick up his pallet and walked. The man was not made well because he got up. The man was made well because Jesus did all the healing. This is the order of salvation. We are not saved because we get up. We are not made well because we

walk. We are not saved because of what we do. We are saved before we can do anything. That is how this man was healed physically. That is the same case for us who get healed by Jesus spiritually. We are saved when God declares us righteous (Justified - Romans 3:23-24). The man was healed when Jesus said he was healed. It was before he got up. We are saved when God says we are saved. The moment we believe, not after we work, not after we put in our effort, only upon believing are we saved (Ephesians 1:13). Faith plus nothing equals salvation. Be confident in that.

Notice what this man did after he was made well. He picked up his pallet, and he began to walk. Let me ask you: Have you picked up your pallet and started walking with God? Have you picked up your cross and started walking with God? Have you said, "When Jesus died, I died with Him (Galatians 2:20). When Jesus was raised to life, I was raised to life with Him (Ephesians 2:5-6). I am going to get up and move forward for the glory of God. I have been eternally made well. I have nothing to lose. If God's Word tells me I need to reconcile relationships in my life I am going to do it (Philippians 4:2). If God's Word tells me to live at peace with all men I am going to do it (Romans 12:18). If God's Word tells me to love my wife, I am going to do it - If God's Word tells me to respect my husband I am going to do it (Ephesians 5:31). If God's Word tells me to confess my sin before the Lord I am going to do it (1 John 1:9). If God's Word tells me to forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven me I am going to do it (Ephesians 4:32). If God's Word tells me I should study Scripture I am going to do it (2 Timothy 2:15). If God's Word tells me to abide in Jesus I am going to do it (John 15:5)."

Fact #7 - Jesus performed this sign on the Sabbath. **5:9**

This is where the pendulum swings in this scene. Jesus transformed this man's life, but He strategically did it on the Sabbath. This evidentially was a problem for the self-righteous, religious people. This is why people hated Jesus.

I'll leave you with 5 concluding thoughts:

- 1) We all are helpless apart from Jesus.
- 2) Jesus loves to heal the helpless.
- 3) Jesus knows everything about us.
- 4) Jesus cures those who have lost hope in themselves.
- 5) Jesus calls us who are cured to walk forward for the glory of God.

Jesus - the one who searches out helpless people and gives them complete healing.

Would you like to be completely healed? Give up on you, and give all of you, to Jesus.