

Walking with Jesus

Part 7

“The Turning Point”

John 5 NKJV

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. **5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

11 He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’ ”

12 Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” **13** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place. **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.”

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

Pics: Pool of Bethesda

1. Jesus has Compassion

Vs. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time...

Compassion comes from empathy

Empathy comes from understanding

Jesus knew he had been in this condition a long time...

- I love knowing that God understands when others don't...
- Maybe there's someone here today going through something and you feel that no one understands and perhaps they don't.
- Jesus sees and he understands...

2. There is an Unexpected Encounter with Grace

6 ... (Jesus) said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

- Jesus asks a question that seems to have an obvious answer...
- I wouldn't have been surprised if the guy answered with an ounce of sarcasm...
- But in all honesty it is a good question...
- What is Jesus really asking?
 - Perhaps he is asking, (do you really want things to change?)
 - Or are you so accustomed to life like this, that this is what you want?
 - Right now not much is expected of you
 - Right now you don't have to work
 - Right now this is all you know
 - Do you want this to change?
 - Do you want want to be made well?

It's possible he could have been content in the midst of his circumstances...

- It's a Yes or No question and the man doesn't really answer Jesus...
- Thankfully Grace reads between the lines...
- He starts telling Jesus what he has or hasn't been able to do...
- Jesus is about to show him what Grace looks like...
- Grace is not what you can do, it's a gift from God...
- **This Grace comes to him Unexpected**

3. There is a Word & an Invitation

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Notice Jesus didn't take him by the hand...

Jesus didn't ask the disciples to lift him up...

Jesus gives him a word & an invitation...

This is where the Miracle Begins and this is where it begins translate to us:

God will do the same thing for you

He will speak to you through His Word...

Remember all he got was a Word & an Invitation...

"Rise, take up your bed and walk."

The Miracle that brought transformation came through a Word from God and an Invitation...

- The whole time he was looking for the water to move, but what he needed was a Word from God

Many times in our lives the work of God begins with "A Word and a Invitation"...

*A Word from God begins to work when grab onto it...
it has to fall on Faith...*

The Invitation reveals one thing: will My Will line up with God's Will...

The Man believed there was something to what Jesus said, when he said,
"Rise, take up your bed."

Two wills came together: His will came together with God's Will...

Here's a News Flash: Your Miracle just might take some effort...
It Certainly will take Faith...

4. In his obedience he found resistance

9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.
And that day was the Sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said to him who was
cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

Can you believe this...

After 38 yrs He gets his Miracle and now an Unauthorized to Carry
Violation...

In his obedience he found resistance

Can you believe that

You can't follow Jesus and not face some kind of resistance...

There is an anti christ spirit out there that will do everything to stop you...

There is a real spiritual battle...

Lesson Here:

Not everyone is going to believe your breakthrough...

Not everyone is going to celebrate your victory...

There are border bullies who will stand in the way and oppose what God wants to do in your life...

If you haven't meet one yet, you will...

Maybe this is part of the reason why Jesus asked "Do you want to be made well"

Here come the critics

Here comes the stuff you never expected

All because Jesus did a Miracle...

If you think I'm exaggerating about this let's take a look at

Vs. 16

For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

What Jesus did was so radical the religious sought to kill Him because he had done this on the Sabbath.

Does that even begin to make sense in the mind of a man who has been paralyzed for 38 yrs.... No...

5. The man has a Revelation of Jesus

NIV

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.

The Man hears the voice of Jesus

Receives Healing in his Body

Walks for the first time in 38 years

And He doesn't even know who did it...

This makes me wonder:

How many times did God intervene in my life before I knew it was him.

Before I knew his name

Before I knew his voice

Before I knew his grace and goodness

How many times did God rescue me...

How many times did God rescue you...

Because he cares and he understands...

This man didn't know who it was who healed him until Jesus appeared to him again...

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."

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

- Jesus visits him again...
- He reveals himself and truth he needs to know

"See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

This right here reveals something about the nature of sin

I believe this reveals something about the nature of the situation this man came from.

Jesus gives a sober warning; sin can open door for something worse...

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Closing:

As Jesus' Disciples we walk with Him and as we witness Jesus with the Man at the Pool of Bethesda what have we learned?

1. When Jesus healed this man, it was out of Compassion
2. When Jesus warned this man, it was out of Compassion

My Invitation to you this morning:

1. Don't look for the water to move, look for His Word.
2. Have the courage to act on His Word.
3. Follow Him even in the face of Criticism