

## GOD the SON - "Jesus, Our Healer" Pt.1 - John 5:1-16

**NKJV-** *"After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate **a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda,** having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 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. **Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.** 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?" 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 said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. **And that day was the Sabbath.***

*The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' " Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. 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.**" The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and **sought to kill Him,** because He had done these things on the Sabbath."*

- **Years ago, the American Red Cross were running a **MERCY** mission, collecting supplies for an African nation in turmoil.** A box came into the distribution center one day, and on top of the box was a note and it read: "We have recently been converted. We want to try to help now. We won't ever need these things again. Can you use them for something?" Inside the box was a huge stack of Ku Klux Klan robes. Those white, hooded robes that the Ku Klux Klan wears. They had been converted to Jesus Christ, been born again, and in **MERCY** were now sending their old robes to the Red Cross, to help this nation in Africa. The American Red Cross thought it very appropriate, to cut the white robes into long strips, which they later used as bandages to heal the African nation.
- **2,000 years ago, in the ancient Roman world, **MERCY** was not high on their list of virtues.** In fact, the Romans considered mercy to be a weakness. Rome glorified courage, strength, and justice. The Roman Empire wasn't a merciful world... it was merciless.
  - **One Roman philosopher said: "**MERCY** is the disease of the soul."**
  - **I heard about a poster that was posted on a tree by a convent and the poster read: "PRIVATE PROPERTY - No Trespassing!! All Trespassers Will Be Shot On Sight! All Violators Will be Prosecuted to**

*the Fullest Extent of the Law." The poster was simply signed, "The Sisters of **MERCY**."*

- By contrast, if you were to go the Bible and count up the number of times **MERCY** appears in Holy Scripture, you would discover it to be close to **300x!**

Certainly, **MERCY** is a characteristic of God. Did you know that after the children of Israel sinned with the golden calf in the wilderness, GOD had a confrontation with them... and this is how He introduces Himself in **Exodus 34:6 NLT**: *"The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "I am YAHWEH! The LORD! The GOD of compassion and **mercy!**"*

- **Psalm 103:8 NKJV** - *"The Lord is **merciful** and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in **mercy.**"*
- **Matt 5:7 NLT** - *"God blesses those who are **merciful**, for they will be shown **mercy.**"*

In John chapter 5, Jesus comes to a man at a place called the pool of "**Bethesda**". Now Bethesda is a Hebrew word that means "the house of **MERCY**."

I. Show mercy by **GATHERING** frequently.

II. Show mercy by **SEEING** & **SERVING**.

I. Show mercy by **GATHERING** frequently.

*"After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 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."*

- The Pool of Bethesda was a large, rectangular pool about 3 feet deep. It was used to wash animals in, especially sheep, before they went up to the temple for sacrifice. Now we don't know how many. It says a great multitude of sick people. On a normal day, there were fewer than 300 people at this huge pool. But on feast days like this, there probably would've been around 3,000 people.
- The perfect place to begin a journey of mercy, is **among other believers**. As we gather frequently, we're going to find that we're in touch with all sorts of needs that have an opportunity for us to share. God's flock needs mercy.
  - *"Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect: that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks and so do God's people." - Spurgeon*

- When you gather frequently in church, in a **home** group, **men's** Bible study, or **women's** group, as you get to know those people you'll find out that some of them have needs that you can help them with.
  - Some will need **spiritual** things. Some of them will need **emotional** things. Some are going to need **financial** help. But all of those will provide an opportunity for youth show **MERCY** to the body of Christ.
    - **Gal 6:10** - "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, but especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
    - **Heb 10:25** - "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching."
- **You want to show mercy?** You don't have to go anywhere else than your own backyard at first. Look in the family of believers you gather with, on a regular basis!

## II. Show mercy by **SEEING** & **SERVING**.

**"Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 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?' 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 said to him, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk. And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.'"**

- The word for "see" is the most common Greek word in New Testament. It's the word "**eido**" and simply means "**to look at**". But this often it carries with it the idea of perceiving something beyond what you see. In other words, it's when you see something, but you understand much more than what you can visibly see.
- Mercy begins by how we **SEE** people and how we **SEE** their condition:
  - **Matt 9:36 NKJV** "...When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." (What He did was based upon how He saw)
    - **"Two little boys were talking and one of them said, I hate to wear glasses all the time! Something a boy would say. His friend said, I don't know, if those glasses were like my grandma's glasses, I think I'd like to wear glasses all the time because my grandma, he says, is able to see when somebody's hurting or tired and she knows exactly what to say. And I asked her one day, grandma, how is it that you're able to see like that all the time? And she said, it's the way I learned to look at things the older I get. The other little boy was sort of befuddled with that and said, you're right. It must be her glasses."**

- **MERCY** from the Lord, has caused Christians ever since this time to engage in what we call "Mercy Ministry". Reaching out to the poor, reaching out to the sick, mission work around the world, orphanages, hospitals. It's sort of ironic, isn't it, that while unbelievers are spouting off their questions to the church like well how can a God of love allow suffering to exist, they're just sort of standing around asking those questions. But the Christian church is the one building the orphanages and the hospitals and the feeding centers and the clinics.

- *In Iraq years ago during the first Gulf War, Calvary Chapel servants were there carrying 32,000 shoeboxes full of loving gifts, supplies, and presents. Calvary brought in about six semi-trucks, 32,000 shoeboxes, to the children of Baghdad and around Iraq. Well when they got there and were unpacking, the local people wanted to know who we were, what we had, and why we were there, especially since the U.N. said nothing can go in. so they wanted to know why Calvary was there. One of the people they met with was the Minister of Religious Affairs for all of Iraq under Saddam Hussein. They simply said, "Sir, we want to make it very clear. We are not here in the name of the American government. We're not representing America. We're not here in the name of the Canadian government or the Lebanese government. We are here in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who told us that we should love people that He created in His image, and share that love with your children." The pastors told him why they were there, told him a little bit about the Lord, his remarks shocked them. He looked at them and said, "Do you know that until now we have always believed that it's the Christians of the world that hated us."*