

Up Close and Personal
The Man at Bethesda – No More Excuses
April 30, 2023

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take** my yoke upon you and **learn** from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Pathway to your destiny in Christ:

1. Check the _____.

John 5:2-5 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the **pool of Bethesda**, with **five covered porches**. **Crowds of sick people**—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. **One of the men** lying there had been sick for **thirty-eight years**.

2. _____ will find you.

John 5:6-7 When **Jesus saw him** and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” “I can’t, sir,” 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.”

Psalms 139:7-8 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.

3. _____ do not release you from your responsibility.

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Key Question: What _____ are you giving God on why you have not stepped into your purpose and calling?

4. Do you want to be made _____?

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Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Key Thought: God does not consult your past to determine your _____.

Psalm 33:6-9 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

5. Your test will become your _____.

John 5:8-11 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” Instantly, the man was healed! He **rolled up his sleeping mat** and began walking! But this miracle happened on the **Sabbath**, 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!**” But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

Key Thought: _____ is linked to your miracle.

6. No more excuses, stop _____.

John 15:12-15 “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded. **The man didn’t know**, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. 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.” Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that **it was Jesus** who had healed him.

Walk Away: What is the _____ telling you to do?
Will you _____ with God?

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