



Do you want to be healed?

John 5:1-16

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Introduction:

The story about Tammy answering questions oddly ... and not answering the direct question.

Last week we discussed the Unexpected Calling. We laid out that EVERYONE of us ... EACH and EVERY ONE who follow Jesus have been given a gift of the Holy Spirit, endued with Power to perform that gift, to live out a purpose for the Kingdom, for our GOOD, His Glory, and the Good of the Body of Christ.

Today, I wonder how many of us are having trouble not so much with whether or not we have a calling, a purpose, or a direction, but rather we find ourselves disobedient to His call because our vision isn't right, our focus is skewed and we are answering questions He never even asked!?

- I. **The Pool of Bethesda - v.1-2**
 - A. Means House of Mercy
 - B. At a certain time, the water would stir ... 1st one in, WINS
- II. **38 Years - v. 5**
 - A. Judging by what happens later, it appears that MAYBE some sin caused his physical condition in some way, by way of judgement or consequence ... we don't know.
- III. **The Question**
 - A. Do you want to be healed?

IV. **Wrong Answer**

- A. "I can't!"
- B. He believed there was only one way things could get better.
- C. Placed ALL his hope in what HE thought was real, what he THOUGHT he knew
- D. Religion = Do this, get that (Get in the pool, get healed)
- E. Jesus wasn't asking him into religion, but whether or not he **WANTED** to be healed ... ultimate healing.

V. **Gracious Gift**

- A. Get up and walk

VI. **Ridiculous Response**

- A. It is unlawful to pick up our mat on the Sabbath!
- B. Nevermind you've been healed after 38 years!!
- C. Their religion caused them to miss the miracle!

VII. **Sin No More**

- A. Jesus was concerned about the man's heart
- B. It seems as though some sin had brought him to this place, or at least his physical state had long since been a reminder to h

So ... how on earth does this relate to YOU? How does this guy's story have anything to do with ME?

Many of us here today, maybe all of us, are searching for SOMETHING ..

Significance, Popularity, Approval, or maybe even your own selfish desire

Jesus is asking you if you want to be healed ... not just in your body, but in your soul ... to be made **whole** and we respond with odd, strange answers like:

“I’m just a kid”

“I’m not perfect, so I can’t”

“I’ve done too much already ... “

“I’m too far gone ... “

“I’m not worth it .. “

None of these are answers to the question ... they are **excuses** NOT to follow, NOT to obey, NOT to trust.

Yes, Jesus healed the man’s legs, but later on, He tells the man to go, and sin no more ... so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.

Wait, what??

You see, this whole story isn’t **ONLY** about his legs working again. It’s about his eternal life in Christ.

Go and sin no more so nothing worse happens **SIN ALWAYS HAS CONSEQUENCES**

Jesus tells this guy, “*Don’t waste this **NEW LIFE** you’ve been given, this opportunity to be healed and flourish ... don’t waste it with willful sin, bringing on even more consequences!!*”

YOU and I DON’T HAVE TO SIN!!!!

Sure, you will make mistakes, but I mean willful, thought-out, chosen sin ... if you are a follower of Jesus **you and I have the Holy Spirit to guide you and to give you strength NOT to do it.**

When we do sin, we own it, we repent, we ask forgiveness, we take our consequences if there are any, and we move on ... determined **NOT** to do it again.

When this guy was first asked if he wanted to be well, he was missing the whole point of what Jesus was trying to do. All he could see was what was in front of him, his legs ... and the only way he could see it to be resolved ... the pool.

But Jesus came offering something more, something different. All the guy gave was an **excuse** of why God (Jesus) couldn't do what He was offering to do.

And even the Pharisees, the religious dudes, couldn't see it. They got mad, so mad they started persecuting Jesus, simply because the man ... healed after 38 stinking years ... carried his mat on the Sabbath. **They couldn't enjoy the healing, the extraordinary work of God, because they were too bogged down in their own man-made religious rules.**

My question to you today is simple:

What excuses are we giving to Jesus in response to His invitation to join Him in a life of surrender and to follow Him?

He is asking you if you want to be healed ... what reasons are you giving Him as to why He can't do what He is wanting to do?