



Stirred Not Shaken

Stir it Up Series

Scripture Reading

John 5:1-8 (NKJV)

1 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."

Introduction

While reflecting on this Scripture, a random phrase came to my mind and it was from the James Bond movies. While undercover in his suave nature, he would walk up to the cocktail bar and calmly order a drink. And he'd instruct the bartender that he wants his drink "shaken, not stirred." In other words he wants it chilled with ice, shaken rigorously, so when he drinks it it's already cooled down for him to

enjoy.

How many times do we want things done for us, processed for us, given to us just the way we like it?
And we need someone else to prepare it.

The shaking part of things requires someone else to do it. It's rigorous, it happens in a short space of time and the process doesn't take long.

Stirring takes longer. Things don't happen right away. It's a process of bringing all the elements together.

The invalid man at the Pool of Bethesda wasn't suave; he wasn't debonair; he couldn't control his circumstances but he was dependent on someone else to give him the chance he so desperately wanted. And over the course of 38 years he couldn't receive the one thing he wanted.

Waiting in Want and Stuck in Need

Verse 5 says "Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years."

38 years of expectation and disappointment

38 years of asking and not receiving

38 years of proximity but no promise

38 years of watching other people get theirs

38 years of seeing the angel move the waters but never getting in

38 years of watching heaven show up and being in hell because he couldn't move

He was "waiting in want" and "stuck in need."

I know what I want but I'm stuck in the place of need

At some point he may have been tempted to accept that this miracle just wasn't his

That it would always be someone else's

He could probably recount stories of all the people that used to lay next to him and the ones that made it out of that porch

Missing Your Moment

Verse 4 and verse 7 explain what this man was waiting on for all of these years.

Verse 4 tells us "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."

Throughout the Bible, we can identify that the ministry of angels happens according to time, schedule and specific purpose. Angels are faithful to be present at specific times to deliver a specific ministry or message. They do not deviate from it unless the Lord says that time has come to a close.

For 38 years, God sent an angel to stir up the waters.

It's easy to preach about the plight of the man and miss the faithfulness of God in this Scripture
Opportunity after opportunity had come around

Miracles after miracle was being performed

The presence of this angel meant that prayers were going up for healing and people's prayers were being answered

Ministry was all around him, yet he kept missing his moment

Have you been around the Power of God for a long time, but you've never experienced it for yourself?

Do you have a reason why everyone else is getting it and you're not?

Are you paralyzed in your circumstances and your narrative?

Is your faith shaken to its core because every time something gets stirred, you become chilled in your faith?

Stirring the Inner Waters

John 5:6-9 (NKJV)

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.

The Scriptures do not give us any indication of the tone that Jesus used in His question. If it were us, knowing how long this man had been waiting on his miracle, we might have spoken to him with a more cynical tone; "man... at this point do you even want to be healed?" Or we may have hyped the moment without sensitivity advertising the healing without acknowledging his long experience of disappointment.

I believe that Jesus spoke to Him in a compassionate yet direct manner. "Do you want to be made well?"

this isn't the season when the angel usually shows up but do you want to be healed?

it's been a long time and so many missed opportunities but do you want to be healed?

I know you feel like maybe this isn't for you but do you want to be healed?

Jesus the Angel of the Lord Himself didn't come to stir the Pool of Bethesda; He came to stir the hope and faith of this man!

Jesus opens the door from an exclusive opportunity to an invitational experience. Only the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings could interrupt the religious order of the Sabbath and the Heavenly assignment of the angel to deliver an unexpected, unscheduled, unusual miracle.

Rest & Repentance

John 5:10-14 (NKJV)

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."

What was ironic about this man's experience is that his miracle took place on the Sabbath. A Jewish day of rest. Jesus told him to take up his bed and walk.

He finally got rest from his long 38 yr wait. Because Waiting doesn't feel like Rest

Rest was him moving in the freedom of his healing

Carrying his bed was a weight off of him but the Pharisees came to put another weight of guilt on him. Religion!

But his hope and his joy would not be shaken or chilled by their complaints or their interrogations

When Jesus later came and found him, Jesus had something else to offer this man. A warning.

John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

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 seemed to indicate that this man's 38 year experience occurred because of an unaddressed sin in his past. He was living out a 38 year consequence. And Jesus set him free of it but warned him not to sin again, lest a worse condition comes upon him.

It's easy to forget that God is a Holy God and that Satan is evil and will stop at nothing to keep us paralyzed in the consequences of our sins.

Some sick conditions are a result of sin!

The Lord reveals which health conditions are consequential and which are providential

And His mercy and grace meets a believer in both conditions

In Matthew 12:43-45 Jesus gives us a strong revelation and warning:

Matthew 12:43-45 (NKJV)

An Unclean Spirit Returns

(Luke 11:24-26)

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

When God grants us deliverance from the clutches of evil and the paralysis of sin, we must honor His miraculous work—and not become entangled again.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

This paralyzed man was healed but Jesus showed him that he had to live holy

Close

Have you been in a long season of waiting

Have you been waiting on something outside of you to stir or move

Are you sensing that God wants to stir you?

Are you willing to let God bring an end to the enemy's hold on your life?