

# The Glad Heart

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*(John 5:1-9) — The healing at pool of Bethesda*

## **Opening Illustration: Unhappy as a Mule**

A little girl had been baptized following the morning message. She went home and the family had a huge get-together. The little girl was so happy and joyful and skipping around the house. She came by her grandfather and he snapped at her for being so joyful. The little girl, saddened by her grandfathers' lack of joy, went out to the barnyard. She saw the mule in a corner of the barnyard. She went over to the mule and looked in his sad eyes. She said, "You must go to the same church grandpa goes to."

**My Desiring God experience** — "I'm supposed to be enjoying this?!"

## ◆ Do You Have a Glad Heart?

*(Proverbs 15:15) — He who has a **glad heart** has a continual feast.*

### God's People are Supposed to be Glad

- (Psalm 40:16) - But may all who seek you rejoice and be **glad** in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"
- (Psalm 30:11) - You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with **gladness**.
- (Psalm 68:3) - But the righteous shall be **glad**; they shall exult before God; they shall be **jubilant** with **joy**!
- (Galatians 5:22–23) — But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- (John 10:10) - The thief comes only to steal kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.
- (Philippians 4:4) — **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice**.

## ◆ A Glad Heart is a Delivered Heart — ([John 5:1-9](#))

### The Work of the Gospel is to Deliver us.

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- From who we are to who God wants us to be
- From where we are to where God wants us to be
- From worldly passions to Godward passion

When this work of deliverance IS NOT happening in our lives it brings only frustration, stress, confusion, disappointment, sadness, depression, and anger.

When God's work IS happening, it brings satisfaction, fulfillment, joy, and gladness (and much Kingdom fruit).

**When this work is not happening - we become spiritual invalids. Spiritually we may be alive, but we are paralyzed.**

# God Wants to Deliver You

(Verses 1-3)

<sup>1</sup> After this there was a **feast** of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. <sup>3</sup> In these lay a multitude of invalids-blind, lame, and paralyzed.

## Jesus **LOVES** Messed Up People — (He meets you where you are.)

- Jesus hung out with messed up people — (Mark 2:15-17 - The scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.")
- The preamble to Jesus ministry — (Isaiah 61:1-3) - The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
- Jesus defense of His Messiahship — John the Baptist asked if Jesus really was the Messiah - (Matthew 11:4-5 - And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.")

## Jesus **KNOWS** Messed Up People — (He knows the real you.)

(Verses 5-6)

<sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been an invalid for **thirty-eight years**.

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and **knew** that he had already been there a long time...

- God knows everything about you — (Hebrews 4:13) - ...no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

◆ **ILLUSTRATION: The great and powerful Oz!**  
(putting on a show, trying to hide the truth)

## Jesus **DELIVERS** Messed Up People

(Verses 6)

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."

- Jesus asked a surprising question — "Do you want to be healed?"
- Jesus knows we can't deliver ourselves — He wants us to know it.
- Jesus wants to remove you from the comfortable — (Luke 9:23, 24) - And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.
- Jesus speaks one word and changes everything — (Psalm 145:16) - "You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing."

## True Deliverance Results in Joy & Praise

- (Psalm 40:1–3) — I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a **new song** in my mouth, a **song of praise** to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.
- (Psalm 40:9–10) — I have told the **glad news** of **deliverance** in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

### ◆ Closing:

Do you have a glad heart?

“He who has a glad heart, has a continual feast.”

◆ **ILLUSTRATION: Hard Heart — Barry’s Retreat**