

Visionary Kindness — 11.26.23

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?
— **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

John 5:2-9

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. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had already been there a long time, He said to him, “Do you want 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.” 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!

John 5:6

When Jesus **saw** him lying there and **knew** he had already been there a long time, He **said** to him, “Do you want to get well?”

As humans, we all have the need to **be seen**, to **be known**, and to **be spoken** to.

Kindness Blindness:

Losing sight of the needs of people in our proximity.

The Cure: Empathy.

Hebrews 4:15a

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to **empathize** with our weaknesses...

We can’t always feel exactly what someone is going through, but we can get close enough to help.

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.