

LOVE IS A BATTLEFIELD

PART 5

FIGHTING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Poor...Prisoner...Widow(er)...Grieving...Victim...Hungry...Orphan...Disabled...Depressed
“Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ²Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,... ³Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.^[b] ⁵One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” ⁷“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.” ⁸Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” ⁹Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰so 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!” ¹¹But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”¹²“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded...¹⁴But 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.” ¹⁵Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.” John 5:1-12, 14-15 (NLT)

I. WE OBSERVE COMPASSIONATELY

“Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ²Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,... ³Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.^[b] ⁵One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time...” (v.1-6)

II. WE COMMUNICATE CANDIDLY

“...he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” ⁷“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. ⁸Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” ⁹Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!” (v.6-8)

III. WE FOLLOW-UP CONTINUALLY

¹⁴“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.” ¹⁵Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.” (v.14-15)