

DO YOU WISH TO GET WELL?

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org.

August 30, 2020

John 5:1-5

1. Jesus was in Jerusalem for a feast, however which one would only be a guess.
2. He went to the pool call Bethesda on the Sabbath.
 - a. Bethesda means, “house of mercy, or house of compassion.
 - b. The pool was a mineral spring that was seen to have healing power.
 - c. The flow was intermittent, and apparently people believed that when the water moved it had healing power.
 - d. There were five porticoes or porches that provided shelter for the multitude who were sick, lame, blind, and withered.
3. Why Jesus chose the person He did is not clear.
 - a. The man had suffered with his affliction for thirty-eight years.
 - b. Jesus saw the man, and He knew that the man’s condition was ongoing.

NOTE: There is nothing going on in your life that God is not aware of. Hebrews 4:12-13
For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.**

 - c. Jesus had a point to make, and that point was that God does not take a day off from making people whole even though Jewish tradition implied that He did.”

I. The situation.

- A. From a human perspective the man’s situation appeared hopeless.
 1. It had been ongoing for thirty-eight years.

NOTE: There are many physical, emotional, moral, mental, and spiritual problems that are ongoing and may even appear hopeless.
 2. Also the man had no person to help him in his need, and his condition prevented him from helping himself.

NOTE: The earliest manuscripts that are now available to translators do not include the last section of verse three and all of verse four. Also the presence of words or expressions, unfamiliar to John’s writings call into question its inclusion.
- B. According to John 5:14 the man’s problem was related to sin.

NOTE: The truth is that many ongoing problems are the result of sin—either our own or that of others.

II. The question.

- A. It was a simple, straightforward question, “Do you wish to get well?”
 1. If you read the Gospels you will see that Jesus sometimes asked questions to which the answer seemed obvious. Luke 18:35-43
As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. 36 Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. 37 They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. 38 And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be

quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "**Son of David, have mercy on me!**" 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, 41 "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" 42 And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." 43 Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.

2. It is very difficult to help someone who does not want to be helped.

B. On the surface Jesus' question appears to be a foolish one, but the reality is that not everyone wants to get well.

1. Those who are able to use their problems to manipulate people do not want to get well.

2. Those who want an excuse for their wrong behavior do not want to get well.

3. Those who do not want to live responsibly do not want to get well.

NOTE: Many people choose to be victims when, through Jesus Christ, they could be victors.

C. Note again the man's excuses.

1. I can't help myself, and I have no one else to help me.

2. Yet he was not doing what he could have done, which was to have repented of and stopped his sinful conduct, whatever that conduct was.

D. A lot of people would be blessed if they would just be honest with themselves and with God.

F. Ask yourself, "Do I really want to be all that I can be in Christ?"

III. The command.

A. The command was simple and blunt, "Get up, pick up your pallet, and walk."

B. One of my favorite authors, Herbert Lockyer, wrote the following related to this incident, "Omnipotence met impotence."

1. Every command of Jesus is predicated on His ability, and not ours.

2. What He commands He is ready to accomplish.

3. After a series of commands Paul wrote the following. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.**

4. Paul also declared: Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for **it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

C. From a human perspective it may be easier to make excuses, but those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ ought to simply obey what He and the Word of God says.

D. Based on Jesus' command the infirmed man immediately became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.

E. Whatever your problem or my problem may be, the solution is available, and His name is Jesus Christ.

1. The issues and deep hurts in my life have been healed when I looked to Jesus in faith, and believed and obeyed His Word.

2. Victory over sin and self comes through faith, desire, confession, renunciation, and obedience.

APPLICATION

1. Is sin a problem? Then obey Jesus.
 - a. Repent (stop sinning) and believe the Gospel. Mark 1:5
 - b. Believe and obey God's Word. 1 John 1:9
 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”
2. Are the sins of others a problem? Then obey Jesus. Mark 11:25
 - “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone.”
 - NOTE: Jesus makes no exceptions here. No matter how we have been hurt by the actions of another we are to forgive. When we forgive, in obedience to the command of Christ, we are enabled by Christ to get on with our lives without being encumbered by the past.
3. Forgiveness does not mean we forget, but it does mean that we can remember without the pain.