

## **Would You Like To Get Well?**

### **John 5:1-9** – NKJV - *A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda*

**5** 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.”**

**9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

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### **Bethesda:**

- St. Anne’s Church in Jerusalem –
- Deep excavation marking pool

### **Hebrew name means “house of mercy”**

- A reservoir
- A swimming bath
- With five porches
- Close to the sheep-gate or market

At this time, Bethesda has obviously become **somewhat of a healing shrine.**

Many people in our world today flock to very similar places. Some seem to receive help; sadly, most do not.

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***Those lying around the pool symbolize humanity:***

- Absolutely helpless with crippling addictions
- Blinding ambitions
- And paralyzing conditions.

***Although we try so hard to be self-sufficient, we are impotent – completely powerless –***

- To change our inner lives under **our own power.**
- That's why we devour self-help books
- That's why these people flocked to a promised cure.

**The problem with Bethesda was that it seemed to work for some, but **not for most.****

- The **FIRST** person into the water was cured.
- That's the way it seems to **work in life**
- There's always someone first and someone last
- That's why we so jealously **guard our number one status** in the human family.

***Into this atmosphere of frustration walks Jesus*** (the son of God!)

- He heads directly to one of the most senior members of the Bethesda fraternity.

***His question cuts to the chase:***

- ***“WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET WELL?”***

**The answer seems so obvious, and yet consider this:**

- The man **had not** asked Jesus for help
  - A beggar of that day **could lose** a sometimes profitable and easy income **if he were cured.**
  - He would have to **lose** his **“victim mentality”** and that's not always easy to do!
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***Look at his answer – it's an EXCUSE!***

- “I **don't** have anyone to put me in the pool!”
- **For 38 years**, I've **been a victim** of the carelessness
- Indifference and inefficiency
- **Of my family**, My friends, and even the church.

**EXCUSE** - They have all these special meetings where the waters are troubled, but *it always seems like someone else gets the help!*

- I'm just left sitting here while it happens all around me.

**JESUS KNOWS THAT THE MAN'S "FOCUS" IS PRECISELY THE PROBLEM!**

- So He *bypasses the man's excuse* and *offers him a solution*.

Imagine this man staring intently toward the waters of Bethesda while the Son of God stands beside him offering healing!

- "Get out of my way, Jesus – don't block my view of the pool!"

**DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL?**

**There is no attempt by Jesus to judge the man's worthiness or even his faith level.**

- Jesus just needs to know one thing –
- **ARE YOU WILLING?**

**But my condition is not my fault!**

- That's not the issue – **ARE YOU WILLING?**

**But you don't know how long I've felt this way!**

- That's not the issue – **ARE YOU WILLING?**

**But you don't know what I'm hiding!**

- That's not the issue – **ARE YOU WILLING?**

**Jesus wants to give us wholeness – To *make us what we were always meant to be,***

- But we are such defensive,
- Guilt-ridden, Complicated people
- **THAT We cannot** respond easily **to His simple offer.**

Jesus is still asking, "**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET WELL?**"

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***It's like the choice Moses gave to the people he had led for 40 years when he was on the verge of death ...***

**Deuteronomy 30:19 – NKJV**

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, **that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live;

***Moses knew like we do that many, if not most, of our circumstances in life are chosen.***

***We make unhealthy, unrewarding choices and then blame others for our situation!***

- We can either **consider ourselves the victims** of the insensitivity of others...
- Or we can just square our shoulders and ***make better choices!***

**CHOICE IS THE ISSUE.**

- **CHOOSE LIFE BY CHOOSING GOD!**
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The unspoken message in ***Jesus' question*** is that **we sometimes must pay a price to be well.**

There are **benefits to having an illness, *an excuse.***

- The man by the pool didn't have to work
- Someone carried him around every day
- He may have had other perks
- But all of them paled in comparison ***to just becoming well!***

**I consider only one kind of counselee relatively hopeless:**

- The person who **blames other people** for his or her problems.
- ***If you can take ownership of the mess you're in - - -***
- ***There is hope available for you!!!!***

***Dr. Martin Seligman the author of a book called - Learned Optimism.***

In it, this respected psychologist says that

- **We all have in our hearts a YES or a NO.**
- **We respond to life either negatively or positively.**

Seligman's thesis is that we can **learn to put a YES** in our hearts and by doing so **can change the course of our lives.**

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**CLOSE:**

***This is the heart of what Jesus is asking:***

- **Do you want to be well?**
- **Do you want your marriage to work?**
- **Do you want to get over that bitterness?**
- **Do you want to walk away from the sin that binds you?**
- **Do you want to be saved?**

**2 Corinthians 1:19-20 – NIV**

<sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—**was not “Yes” and “No,”** but in him it has always been **“Yes.”**

<sup>20</sup> **For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.** And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

***JESUS IS GOD'S “YES” FOR YOUR LIFE!***

And, **just like the man at the pool - - -**

- **When Jesus gives a command - - -**
- **There is power in the command –**
- **To fulfill the command!!!!**

**Say YES to Jesus this afternoon....**

- Whatever your struggling with his morning
- Pick up your mat and walk!!!!!!!
- Whatever your need is this afternoon...
- **Do you want to get well???**
- Pick up your mat and walk....

**IT'S NO LONGER ABOUT YOUR POWER, BUT ABOUT HIS POWER!**

In the same way that He spoke the world into being - - -

Genesis 1:3 - *“Let there be light, and there was light”*

*Jesus' spoken words had the power to cure*

John 1:3 – *“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made”*

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET WELL?**

**Would you like to be saved?**

Remember this man - had an infirmity thirty-eight years!!!!!

- **No More excuses...**
- **No More Victim Mentality....**
- **CHOICE IS THE ISSUE.**
- **CHOOSE LIFE BY CHOOSING GOD!**

Let Christ Jesus be your YES - - -

**Get up, Pick up your Mat and walk away from your infirmity....**