
"Jesus said to him, *Get up take up your bed, and walk.*" And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked." -
John 5:8-9

I. The Healing Pool?

- a. When Jesus went to Jerusalem, he did not spend his time with the elite. He concentrated on people in need. (Read Luke 4:18-19)
- b. What was so special about the pool? The pool at Bethesda, historically, was a real pool located at the Northeast section of the city.
- c. Why happened to verses 3b-4? There was no manuscript evidence for these verses.
- d. Copyists apparently thought it would be helpful to explain why the sick gathered there.
 1. The pool was fed by some natural spring which had spa-like healing properties. (it bubbled)
 2. A myth suggested that an angel stirred the waters and the first person into the water, when it was disturbed, would receive physical healing.
- e. Why is this story in the Gospel record? What is the message of the text?
 1. The man had been living with his problem for a long period (38years). He convinced himself God operated based on "first come, first served."
 2. He felt a sense of abandonment because of his condition and a lack of support from others, even when he thought healing might be possible. What did he have faith in.
 3. He apparently had become negative, as some sick people do, and he was ready to blame others.
 4. This attitude did not change after his healing and was likely part of the reason for Jesus' later warning (5:14).

II. Do You Want to Get Well?

- a. This is penetrating question. Was it not obvious? After all he was sick and surrounded by sickness.
- b. Some can be so comfortable with personal misery that they may not want to leave it behind.
- c. If we leave it (sickness, despair, bondage, etc..) behind, we will have to do something with our healing, such as work and take on responsibilities. We will have to learn how to live.
- d. Jesus' question needs to be faced by all who want to be delivered. Are we ready for the implications, repenting and expressing a new loyalty to Christ?
- e. The man's response to the question suggests he was still locked up inside his own need and thinking of a *cure* by the popular means.
- f. *Get up, take up your bed, and walk.* Jesus gave this command on the Sabbath knowing that he was breaking manmade laws of the day.
 1. The Sabbath law had thirty-nine categories of *work* identified which included carrying anything.
 2. The Jewish leaders were not interested in his healing.
- g. A timely reminder that physical healing is no guarantee of spiritual healing. Being freed from our affliction may not lead to a godlier or better life or a better understanding of Christ.

III. Reflective Thoughts for Faith

- a. Instead of answering the question, the man gave a gloomy testimony and his perception of how God works. What symbols and trinkets do people put their faith in? How does God heal?
- b. Sin was connected to his infirmity (vv.. What form of gratitude did the man express?
- c. The Lord heals, but He is more interested in your spiritual healing than your physical healing.
- d. Wholeness in Jesus begins with salvation and continues through sanctification.