

Intro: Read the passage John 5:1-15

“Do you want to get well” Lit = “*Is it the desire of your heart to be made whole?*”

Before Jesus helped this man, notice what He asked him. Gives some insight into what we need to know...as the HELPER!

Because you know that there is a difference between HELPING...and ENABLING!

- Helping leads to healing
- Enabling leads to more pain

Now you would THINK that is a pretty obvious answer...wouldn't you? EVERYONE...ANYONE...Wants to get better. But Jesus knew better. There are three foundational truths I want to start off with this morning that will help you understand

1. SOME suffering is a result of sin. (notice I said some) Not ALL:

Suffering has all different kinds of origins: WE have talked about many:

(God allows to prepare, equip, purify)

But in this instance: THIS one was a result of sin: Look at verse 14 Look at what Jesus said to him

2. Not EVERYONE is ready to leave their sin behind: Even when the look consequences in face and SEE them

Illus: Young man, visited in hospital: OD, narcan, out so long arm: Pastor, I'm done, never again Parents, Drs

1 or 2 weeks later...back on street, using again. Argue sin vs disease: Either way...He didn't want to leave it

3. Some are: You just have to keep trusting, believing, praying...being clear eyed to find out so you do right thing

THE STORY

1. Look at the PLACE this miracle took place. Vs 1-4

- Pool of Bethesda: Pool: Actually 2 pools, 120m x 50m by 75ft deep
- Porches: Because of layout...porch cut it in half
- Name: Place of mercy
- Potential: People came there...tradition was...healing would take place
Water stir (angel, sluice gate, spring that bubbled up intermittently)

Close your eyes and picture it...dozens...maybe hundreds...sick gathered here

The blind, the lame, the paralyzed: Lay there...day after day...never knowing WHEN the water would stir

Then...when it did...the mad dash...Think what that would be like...

Sometimes...if he water stirred at the other end...Begun and over...Before you ever knew

Yet, you would keep going right...because THIS was the ONLY hope you had!

2. The PERSON Jesus Healed that day. Vs 5-6

Let's talk a look at this guy and see what we can discover about him, OK?

- Invalid: Many: One of the many that were there: Probably paralyzed given the description used...word
- Long time: Long Suffering: 38 years (Stop and think about that) How long have you prayed?
- Persistent: Keeps coming; No Help; But he wont give up! (My Counselor: Faithful, Persistent, Stubborn)
- Sin Problem: Vs 14: We don't know what it was...but it seemed to be active
- No Faith: Didn't believe in Jesus...In fact...didn't even know who He was!
Later, when he knew...he reported to the Jews...trying to kill Jesus!

When you stop to look at him, this is the guy LEAST likely to get anything from God...much less a MIRACLE

He has some kind of sin problem that has caused him awful suffering...and hasn't led him to faith.

He isn't like any of the others we think about

>Centurion >Leper: If you are willing: >Blind Bart

>Woman w/issue >Boy w/loaves fish >Father/Son: Help my unbelief

He is far from God...and doesn't even appear to be thinking about God. City knew Jesus, people knew Jesus, Jews knew

But not him! He is just here for what HE can get. Hurting, alone...lost in his selfishness.

And Yet...He experiences an amazing miracle!

3. The POWER of God at work on his behalf. Vs 1-9

Look at what happens. You can easily imagine that when Jesus shows up...Someone in the crowd of hurting people knew Him

There MUST have been people all over that were calling out to Him, trying to touch Him, hoping and praying and seeking help

It happened everywhere else He went. Immediately before was the healing of Centurions son: He sought Jesus out

Immediately after was the feeding of 5000...The whole countryside was chasing him down...Pastor Orin told us that last week

So what do we see here...what do we learn about God's work in this mans life?

- He saw Him: Out of a crowd of dozens...probably hundreds...Jesus focused in on just one man
This is always His way. He cares so much...that He is able to isolate...and truly see just one person in their need
Part of a pattern: Matt 9:35-36 Jesus Went, Jesus Saw, Jesus was moved with compassion
We get it backwards: We say God: Give me compassion, then I'll go...then I'll help:
He says no, You GO...Into the world...LOOK...SEE...That will stir your heart to action and compassion

- **Jesus Knew:** Somehow Jesus knew how long the man was there. 38 years! Amazing
 - ~Look in his eyes and see it?
 - ~Part of his all-knowing nature, revealed by HS
 - ~Hear murmurs...
 - ~Did disciples tell him when they saw Jesus looking?

We don't know...Bible doesn't tell us...But the word used means he KNEW completely, absolutely: We say: Beyond shadow of

- **Jesus Asked:** Do you want to be made whole? Lit = not just WELL physically ...
 - But, do you want to be made totally and completely well...WHOLE.... physically, Spiritually, emotionally
 - You see, Jesus knew the problem was more than physical...so the solution needed to be more...
 - Or as He said in vs 14: Something worse will come
- **Jesus Acted:**

Emotionally	vs 6	“Lit = “ <i>What is the desire of your heart?</i> ”	Not just do you want health
Physically	vs 8	Pick up your bed and walk	
Spiritually	vs 14	Stop sinning	

CONCL: This is one of the most unusual miracles in the ministry of Jesus.

It's not unusual because of WHAT He did...Here is what is unusual: It's WHO HE DID IT FOR!

This is a guy...that isn't asking for anything...not seeking...not following...not begging

I think he has come to the place where he has just given up. After 38 years...He's tired...worn out

How many times did the water stir...and he didn't get in fast enough. Once a year...38; 78, 108, 146, 12x 38=456 52x 38 1976

Yet...he only needed 1. And Jesus was the one. He needed “Someone” and yet when the Someone came...didn't recognize Him!

Couple of things I want you to know this morning

1. God Sees you....Right where you are
2. God KNOWS...whats going on...
3. God is asking you....”Do you want to be made whole?” Not just physically...or emotionally....but spiritually as well
4. God is asking you.... “Are you willing to leave behind the things that are tearing you down? Sin destroying you...
5. Will you do what the man in the story didn't do...Will you recognize that Jesus is the one that CAN Help!
 - If you are saying...If only I had someone that could help...I'm here to tell you...you do

Here is the best part of all.... You don't have to know Him, be in relationship with Him...

He is aware of you...and if you want Him to...He will make you whole.

You can do that today...during the time of invitation

Do you want to be made whole?

This is the Right place...it is a place of mercy!

A place where Jesus is present

A place where He can meet your need...

Come to Jesus