

THE POOL OF BETHESDA

(The Healing Of A Man With "Hopes Deferred")
John 5:1-16



RISE AND BE HEALED

- ◆ The Water Pool (Verses 1, 2)
- ◆ The Waiting People (Verses 3,4)
- ◆ The Wishful Plaintiff (Verses 5-7)
- ◆ The Wonder Working Power (Verses 8-16)

"Wilt thou be made whole?" (Verse 6)

Bill Kirk

“THE POOL OF BETHESDA”

Text: John 5:1-16

Subject: “The Healing Of The Man With “Hopes Deferred”

Introduction

1. Jesus has just traveled up to Jerusalem to attend an unnamed feast.
 - ◆ It could have been the feast of Purim (in March).
 - ◆ It could have been the feast of Trumpets (in September).
 - ◆ It could have been the Passover Feast (since the Passover was the only feast that the Israelites were required to attend).
2. Jesus attends the feast and moves in and out among the people.
3. Jesus is about to stir up His enemies as they begin their open conflict (all because Jesus will heal on the Sabbath Day).

(Jesus Healed “7” People On The Sabbath)

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| #1. The Crippled Man (John 5) | #5. The Withered Hand (Mark 3) |
| #2. The Man Born Blind (John 9) | #6. The Bowed Woman (Luke 13) |
| #3. The Demoniac in Capernaum (Mark 1) | #7. The Man With Dropsy (Luke 14) |
| #4. The Mother-in-Law of Peter (Mark 1) | |

I. The Water Pool (Vs. 1, 2)

“Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches” (v. 2)

(The Scene Of The Miracle Is A Pool)

- #1. The Pool of Bethesda was located on the East Side of Jerusalem (where mineral springs still exist today).
- #2. The word Bethesda means “House of Mercy”.
- #3. The pool had 5 porches to accommodate the invalids who came to use the waters.
- #4. The pool was stirred by God at certain times and when the waters moved there was healing power.
- #5. Whoever would step into the pool first, was made whole of whatever disease he had.

Fact: It was a pool fed by an intermittent spring.

Fact: It was a pool where God chose to heal.

Fact: It was a pool that was surrounded by people who expected to be healed.

II. The Waiting People (Vs. 3,4)

“In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water”. (v. 3)

Question: Who was at the pool?

Answer: The blind, the lame and the withered.

(All 3 The Result Of Sin)

- ◆ Sin blinds our eyes to truth and the glory of God.
- ◆ Sin makes us lame so that we cannot walk and follow after God.
- ◆ Sin withers up our strength and leaves us weak and vulnerable.

Question: What are these people doing at the pool?

Answer: One of the toughest things we ever have to do - waiting and waiting and waiting!

Fact: At times the spring was perfectly quiet.

Fact: At other times it bubbled up and whoever stepped in was made well.

Fact: A great multitude of people was at the pool waiting, hoping, praying, expecting and thinking, "This could be the day".

(How Many Of You Have Been Waiting...?)

- ... waiting for an expectation to be fulfilled?
- ... waiting for God to answer prayer?
- ... waiting for God to open the windows of heaven?
- ... waiting for that prodigal son or daughter?
- ... waiting for your desert to give way to fountains?
- ... waiting for your drought to turn into fresh water?
- ... waiting for the water to be stirred?
- ... waiting for the miracle that only God can give?

(I Promise You)

- ◆ Waiting may not be fun, but waiting pays great dividends! (Repeat)

"Though the vision may tarry wait for it, for it will surely come and not be overdue one single day". (Habakkuk 2:3)

III. The Wishful Plaintiff (Vs. 5-7)

"And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years."

"I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool" (vs. 5, 7)

Fact: This man had been afflicted for 38 years.

Fact: He was in the crowd, but was singled out by Jesus to teach us something.

Fact: Jesus would ask the man a simple question:

"Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?" (Verse 6)

Question: Didn't Jesus know what this man needed?

Question: Didn't Jesus know why He was there?

Question: Didn't Jesus know his desire to be healed?

- ◆ Then why did Jesus ask the question, "Do you want to get well?"
- ◆ Why did Jesus ask what He already knew?
- ◆ Why is it recorded in your Bible?

Question: How did the paralyzed man reply?

Answer: "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool". (v. 7)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Instead of just saying, "Yes Lord, heal me" ...
 - ◆ ... He places the blame of his condition on what somebody else has not done for him. (Repeat)
- (Pg. 2 of 4)

(In Other Words)

The reason why Jesus asked the question was...

- ◆ ...because this man had been so often denied a cure, that all hope was dead within him.
- ◆ ...his heart had withered as well as his limbs,
- ◆ ...his spirit had withered as well as his body,
- ◆ ...his attitude had withered as well as his physical stature.

(And This Man Could Rise No Higher Than A Feeble Complaint)

“Nobody helps me get into the water” (and) “Others are getting in before me”.

Ask: How many people blame their condition on what somebody else has not done for them?

Ask: How many people are wounded because of expectations that have been unfulfilled by someone?

Ask: How many people feel cheated because of what someone else has done to them (or not done for them?)

Ask: How many people are lame because of...

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| ...betrayal? | ...resisted? | ...let down? | ...hopes deferred? |
| ...disappointments? | ...abused? | ...neglected? | ...rejected? |
| ...ignored? | ...wounded | ...over looked? | ...angry? |

(What Does Jesus Ask?) “Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?”

- ...Because this man had paralysis of heart,
- ...Because his plans had been deferred,
- ...Because his hopes were “On hold”,
- ...Because his focus needed to be addressed.

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick, but when dreams come true there is joy and life”. (Pr. 13:12)

(Which Means:)

Delay in the fulfillment of something much desired, has the tendency to sink your spirit and leave you despondent!

- ◆ Have “Hopes Deferred” weakened your will?
- ◆ Have “Hopes Deferred” weakened your heart?
- ◆ Have “Hopes Deferred” weakened you spirit?
- ◆ Have “Hopes Deferred” weakened your outlook?
- ◆ Have “Hopes Deferred” soured your attitude?

Fact: Jesus spots the man in the crowd with hopes deferred (and),

Fact: Jesus has you in view this hour as well!!!

“The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear” (Pr. 18:14)

- ◆ This is why your attitude of spirit must be healed. (For a wounded spirit will destroy and weaken all else).

IV. The Wonder Working Power (Vs. 8,9)

“Jesus saith unto him, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked” (vs. 8,9)

Fact: The man was looking for an angel to stir the water.
Fact: But there is One greater than angels, (that is Jesus).
Fact: The man was waiting for a man to help him in the water.
Fact: But Jesus interrupted his plans and came his way.

(Results When Jesus Stops By For This Man)

A. He Walked (vs. 11, 12)

Question: Why did Jesus say, “Rise and walk” to a crippled man (who had no power to walk)?

Answer: To reveal to us all, that the power to be healed is not our own (but solely belongs to God).

◆ It has to be God or it will not happen, will not last and won't get done!

B. He Worshipped (v. 14)

Fact: Jesus found him in the temple.

Fact: The man was making up for all the years he was absent.

Fact: The man was grateful and wanted to give thanks and glory to God.

C. He Witnessed (v. 15)

“The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus which had made him whole”

Fact: The man draws no attention to himself.

Fact: He testifies that it was Jesus who made him whole.

Conclusion and Application

(To be healthy, happy and whole (on the inside – your spirit) and (on the outside- your countenance)

Remember these:

- #1. You are not responsible for what other people do; the only one you can control is yourself!
- #2. Focusing on what you don't have, will not allow you to enjoy what you do have!
- #3. You cannot change the past events, of your life, but you can change the interpretation of them (what you keep telling yourself about them)!
- #4. Angels are fine (and real) but its Jesus alone where we place our trust!
- #5. God gets no glory when we allow a sour attitude to defile us and distance us from people!
- #6. Life will dent and disappoint everyone, but God's grace is sufficient for anyone of us to rise to a higher level.
- #7. The way I respond to what happens to me, will determine what happens in me over the long haul.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor