

Do You Wish to Get Well?

John 5:1-15

8/15/04

Intro

This story takes place in Jerusalem at the place called the sheep gate. There was a pool there with five porticoes, or porches and people would gather there hoping to be healed.

They had come to believe that when the waters moved, an angel was stirring the waters and someone would be healed.

Here Jesus finds a man who had been sick for 38 years. He asks him a question that becomes for us also a question that we must answer, "Do you want to be well?"

This story not only reveals to us who Jesus is, but also how deals with our weakness and helplessness.

I. Some People Do Not Want God's Help

A. The man was helpless

- There was no one who would help him get into the pool. He was alone.
- We can relate to this man in many ways...
- We all need help. **We all find ourselves at times unable to the thing we ought to do, or the thing we must do.**
- Some people are spiritually lame.

Isaiah 25:4, "For You have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat;"

Romans 5:6, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly."

B. Some people love their weakness

- It was important that Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well.
- Some people love their helplessness.
- It shows us how much we need love.

Illus – Misha came to us with a great need of love and when he went to the hospital, that need was being satisfied.

Revelation 3:17-18, Because you say, " I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

- You cannot help someone who does not want to be helped.

Illus – Some people find great comfort in self pity.

- Some people refuse the help God offers...

Illus – The old joke about the guy caught in a flood; as the water rises he continues to refuse all help saying, “no thanks, God will save me.” Finally he dies and goes to heaven. There he complains to God...

C. Some people refuse to believe there is help

- They have simply given up.
- Or they have resigned themselves to being weak and failing the rest of their lives.

Illus – Many times I have heard people make the statement, “That’s just the way I am!”

- They refuse to believe they can be changed and so they give up.

Illus – Some people are so used to being in prison, they’re more comfortable there.

Some will even sabotage help when it does come...

Psalm 142:7, “Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name;”

II. Do What Jesus Asks You to Do

A. Rise! Stand up!

- Why did this man do what God asked him to do?

- Perhaps he was thinking, *“If He is asking me to do what I cannot do, it must mean that He intends to do something to make it possible.”*

- If we are to get help from God, we must truly do what God is asking us to do.

Proverbs 3:5-8, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.”

B. Our will must agree with God’s will

- What would happen if the man decided to resist the Lord and not do what he was asked?
- There would be no help.

Luke 18:22-23, When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

C. Make no provision for failure

- Jesus told him not only to rise, but to **“take up your pallet...”**

- Jesus is telling him to get rid of it. As G. Campbell Morgan has said, “In order to make no provision for a relapse.”

Romans 13:14, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

- We need to cut off our ties to the world we left behind!

Illus – When the Romans landed on the island of what is now England, the general all the soldiers watch as he had all the ships burned.

- Let people know that you’re a Christian and don’t hang out with people who tempt you to sin.

III. Stay Whole

A. Behold, you have become well

- The word “well”, means in the Greek, “whole.”
- He was a new man, made whole by Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

B. Sin no more

- So that nothing worse may come to you.
- It is not always sin that makes people sick.

- Job would be an example of that. There was also a blind man that Jesus healed and when the disciples asked whose sin caused it, he said it was neither his sin nor his parents, but for the glory of God.

- But sometimes sickness or troubles come because of sin. **I believe that we will know in our hearts.**

- Sometimes it is a bitter, unforgiving spirit.

Illus – the old woman who had never forgiven – she chose bitterness, and then bitterness chose her.

Galatians 6:7-8, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Conclusion

The question is also asked of us, “Do you want to get well?” We must become honest with ourselves and with the Lord. If we then made whole, we must choose to stay whole.