

August 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

John 5:3-9 *Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. (NIV)*

Sometimes, the best way to see something is to see what it is not. Here is an invalid who has no hope because no one will help him. He was powerless to get himself into the healing waters at the Pool of Bethesda. Someone was always getting there first. He was powerless to get the job accomplished on his own. This is a picture of anyone who does not have Jesus. He is the power. Not only was he powerless, but he was also helpless. Being paralyzed, he needed help to get to the pool first, yet no one would help him. No one seemed to care about this man. Now with this snapshot in mind, let's look at those in this world that are paralyzed by their own sin. They need help, but it seems no one will help them. At the pool, everyone was looking out for their own interests. Man is inherently selfish. Do we really care about others?

Not only was he helpless because he was paralyzed, but he was also hopeless. He was thirty-eight years old. He had no hope until Jesus arrives. Jesus is our only hope. He is the only One Who can take what is broken or lost and bring it to life. Jesus saw more than a physical cripple that day. He saw a life that needed hope and needed help. This man's only hope was Jesus. So, Jesus asks him an important question: ***Do you want to get well?*** Some people want to wallow in self-pity or in sin. God stands at the door of your heart and knocks, but He doesn't barge in. You have a choice. The man's choice was clear as he had pled his case before Jesus. ***“I have no one to help me...”***

Jesus then speaks. He doesn't tell him to get into the pool, He just speaks. ***“Get up!”*** This was something the man had never been able to do. ***“Pick up your mat and walk.”*** There was no safety net or plans for a relapse. Walk - move forward, don't look back. When it comes to dealing with the sin that so easily entangles us, we must move forward and not look back. You recall when Lot left Sodom and Gomorrah, his wife stopped and looked back. She was turned by her selfish nature, and thus she was turned into a pillar of salt. When we choose to follow Jesus, we must do it wholeheartedly. What will you choose today?

Dear LORD, help us to choose You today. Self is never the answer. We need You in our lives to lead and guide. In Jesus Name, Amen