

I. Case Study: Do you want to get well?

Description: Sickness and disease can cause us to feel utterly alone and abandoned, especially if we have been sick for any length of time. Jesus asks us a hard question, if we really want to get well? I know you do!

Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [**waiting for the moving of the waters**; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and **stirred up the water**; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When **Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition**, He said to him, "**Do you wish to get well?**" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'" **They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk?'" But the man who was healed did not know who it was**, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "**Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.**" The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. - John 5:2-15 NASU

1. Stir up the water yourself

"...stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well..."

- a. Don't wait for someone else
- b. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. - Jude 20-21 NASU

2. Jesus knows you have been sick a long time

"...Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition..."

- a. Not indifferent
HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES." -
Matthew 8:17 NASU

3. Do you want to get well?

"...Do you wish to get well?..."

- a. Faith and self-pity don't equal healing

4. Do you know the voice of authority?

“...They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'?" But the man who was healed did not know who it was...”

- a. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; - John 10:27 NASU

5. Has your habitual sin paralyzed you?

“...Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you...”

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. - James 5:14-17 NASU