

July 17, 2022

Jesus Heals a Lame Man:

Read John 5:1-15 NKJV

I want you to know 38 years is a long time. This man laid by the pool for 38 years, waiting. We don't know whether he was a homeless man always at the pool, or someone dropped him off daily and went back to pick him up. That was a day or two ago. That man has been laying by the pool since before Jesus was born. 38 years ago, from today, would be 1984. Where were you in 1984?

1. Ronald Reagan was the President of the United States.
2. Personally, we were paying 13.5% in 1984 on a house loan and we were glad to get it. It was a couple of years before that I had a business loan for 19%.
3. Average price of a gallon of gas \$1.13
4. Wendy's ad, "Where's the Beef?"
5. Apple's #1 Super Bowl ad introducing the Macintosh computer

The word Bethesda means "House of Mercy". It's interesting when you look at commentaries, many say for years it was disputed that John writing about the Pool of Bethesda was crazy because there were no signs this actually existed. The talk was if you cannot trust John to write about a real place, can you trust him for the rest of his Gospel and writings? In the late 1800's there was a partial discovery, and it was confirmed in 1964 there was in fact a pool matching John's description with 5 porch porticos', near the Sheep gate just north of the Temple-Mount area. Once again, the accuracy of the Bible is proven to be just as it was written.

Point # 1- "A Place of Great Need"- (Read VS. 3-4)

- A) This likely was a hot spring that would bubble up occasionally and they were convinced an angel of the Lord would stir the water. I don't believe for a minute that God was into some type of cruel joke that would be a certain time frame to get into the water and then uh-oh too bad you missed it.
- B) They say after interviewing POW's that survived WWII and the Vietnam war, what was it that got you though. It was always the same thing. The hope of one day going home.
- C) This world is full of people who have needs. They are looking for an answer and many of them are trying to find that answer in everything except the Lord. The needs are

many and they vary from each other, but the answer is pretty much the same. They need the Lord Jesus to step into their situation and lives. For years individuals have looked to horoscopes and fortune tellers for direction. They have tried all kinds of things from this world to satisfy and at first think they found it, only to be disillusioned once again when they find out it was only temporary or smoke and mirrors. The only thing that will satisfy is a relationship with the Lord Jesus.

D) I believe God has designed the human machine to run on a whole lot of Himself while we live on a small mixture of this world. It is like the old fashion “carburetor” that mixes fuel and air to make the car engine run smoothly. You get that balance out of whack and it runs choppy, inefficiently, and lacks power. The Lord Himself is the fuel our lives were meant to run on. You cannot find happiness and contentment apart from the Lord Himself because it doesn’t exist.

Point # 2- “A Perplexing Question Worth Asking”- (Read VS. 5-6)

- A) At first glance this must be the craziest question ever asked. What is Jesus thinking by asking a man who has been waiting and hoping for 38 long years, “Do you want to be made well?”. This man’s one goal in life is to get into the water and he has come up short for 38 years and you ask if I want to be made well. That’s all he must hope for. He doesn’t have a lot else going on in life. I believe the question is: are you sure you want your lifestyle to change? A healing means this man life and everything he has known for 38 years is about to change. If you have made your living by individuals feeling sorry for you and giving their hard-earned money to the you because you are lame that may not work well for you anymore.
- B) A second truth is this; many of us have not suffered a physical disability for 38 years, but there are those who have allowed themselves to live in bondage to “something” or allowed something to control you for a long, long time. Maybe you are here this morning, and you say, when you talk about living in bondage to something, I know exactly what you are talking about. The only thing worse that I can think of than living in bondage for 38 years is to start your 39th year the same way with no intent to change things. I ask you this morning, “Do you want to be made well?”
- C) Maybe you feel like you have setting next to a pool waiting for a better life ahead, but it never seems to come. We continue to hope for a better life, but every time opportunities come, something gets in the way. We continue to hope for something without seeing signs of change. We have come to expect more of the same tomorrow. What will it take for our tomorrow to be different?

Point #3- “A Person with All the Answers”- (Read VS. 7)

- A) This man never really answered Jesus’ question at all. The question was, “Do you want to be made well”, not “how come you cannot be the first one in the pool”. There are a whole lot of people today asking the Lord to treat the symptoms instead of treating the problem. We are praying for the medication to be supplied so we can cope with the situation, how about we have Him to heal the condition.
- B) This man had plenty of reasons and plenty of people to blame for his condition. It’s those people’s fault, I can’t get what I need from the Lord because of them. They are holding me back from receiving what I need. I have been hoping for a better life for a long time, but every time I have a chance, someone gets in the way, and they steal it away from me.

Point #4- “The Power of a Great Savior”- (Read VS. 8-9)

- A) I believe there is nothing impossible with the Lord. (Lk. 1:37) I also know for a fact there is deliverance in the Lord. You don’t have to live in bondage and convincing yourself that this is just the way it will always be. I believe the Lord can deliver you from whatever you are going through in life. I believe there is power in prayer even to the point of the Sovereignty of the Lord that can move pieces in place today to answer prayers that won’t even been asked until tomorrow. Jesus can step into your life today and change everything including your destiny. Grace means tomorrow is your friend. Grace says Jesus can step into your situation and bring the healing and the change you have only hoped for. Do not buy into the line that hope is lost just because you haven’t seen change. I encourage you to get back in the water.
- B) It is interesting to me that the healings and situations Jesus steps into don’t always happen the same way. Don’t try and place the Lord in a box and belief this is the only way it can be done. When I think of John Chapter 4, I think of the Woman at the Well. However, the last part of John 4 just before this passage in Chapter 5 is the Royal Official whose son was near death. (If you take out the Chapter break they connect together) (Read John 4:46-53) Let’s look at the difference in the two.

Comparison between the Lame Man in John 5 and the Royal Official's Son in John 4	
Lame Man John 5	Royal Official John 4
Jesus sought out the man	Official sought Jesus
Jesus asked the man	Official pleaded with Jesus
Jesus heals the man publicly	Official's son is healed privately
Sin is a warning to the man	Sin is not mentioned to the official
No belief is needed from the man	Official is motivated to belief

Point #5- "The Problem with the Heart of a Pharisee" (VS. 9-13)

A) The heart of the Pharisee focusses on the breaking of the law, instead of the strengthening of the lame man's legs. Jesus asks the man to "take up his bed and walk". Obviously, He wanted to see if they would see the miracle or cry foul. He could have said, "Leave your mat behind and get out of this place".