

“Do You Want To Get Well?” Delivered 07 14 19 by E A Terry
John 9: 1 – 3; Ephesians 2: 1 – 10; Matthew 5: 38 – 47; **John 5:1 – 15 (Sermon)**

In verse 1 we read that Jesus went up to Jerusalem and went to the sheep gate near The Temple (Verse 2)

The sheep gate was the gate that the sheep used for temple sacrifices were brought in.

This is interesting because Jesus is; **“The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”** (John 1:29)

The Pool of Bethesda is near the sheep gate. (Verse 3)

The name Bethesda means *“house of mercy”*.

Verse 3 also tells us that a great number of people with physical disabilities gathered around The Pool Of Bethesda waiting to be healed.

There was a belief that when an angel came and stirred up the water in The Pool of Bethesda the first person to get in the pool would be healed.

Whether anyone was healed or not, the people came believing that there was hope of healing there.

Verse 5 tells us that one man was there who had been an invalid for 38 years.

In verse 6 we read that Jesus asked this man; **“Do you want to get well?”**

At first the answer to Jesus’ question seems obvious since this man had been waiting to be healed at the pool for 38 years.

But since Jesus never asked a foolish question we need to seriously think about the question.

We are shocked with the man answer; **“Sir, 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 ahead of me.”** (Verse 7)

Notice the man never did answered Jesus’ question; this man just made excuses.

This man had a victim’s mentality.

People with a victim’s mentality always blame their condition on someone else or on society, or on their environment.

These people are unwilling to accept responsibility for their own life.

In verse 8 Jesus said; **“Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”** (Verse 8)

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. (Verse 9)

Then in verse 10 we read; **“the day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”**

You would think the Jewish religious leaders would be praising God for this man's healing.

But instead they accused this man of breaking the law.

"The law forbids you to carry your mat." (Verse 10)

The Law of Moses did not forbid carrying your mat on The Sabbath but the Jewish tradition had strict interpretations about keeping the Sabbath.

In verse 11 the man replied; ***"The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk'"***

Then the Jews asked the man; ***"Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"*** (Verse 12)

You see not only did the Jews condemn this man they were also condemning the person who told him to break the law.

But this man simply replied ***"I don't know who it was."*** (Verse 13)

Later when Jesus found this man at the temple Jesus said; ***"See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."***

Jesus was saying you need to repent if you want to be spiritually healed.

At first glance we might mistakenly think that this man was lame because of his sinful behavior but in John 9: 1 – 3 Jesus plainly states that all infirmities are not the result of a person's sins but rather ***"so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."***

This man was physically healed but sadly there is no indication that he was spiritually healed. (Verse 14)

This man missed his opportunity to enjoy fellowship with The Lord.

This is a nice story but what application does it have to us today.

Notice Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath.

First of all this account is a condemnation of religion that is rule orientated. *You must wear this – You can do that – You can't touch the communion - etc.*

These Jews missed the point of this miracle.

These Jews miss the joy of seeing The Lord working in this man's life.

These Jews missed the joy of being in the presence of The Lord because they were blindly following their man made laws instead of seeking The Lord.

This account is also a lesson on faith healing.

"If you believe enough God will heal you."

Notice this man never asked Jesus to heal him nor did he say that he believed Jesus could heal him.

In fact in verse 13 the man said; ***“I have no idea who it was”***

This man did nothing to earn being healed.

Today churches and pastors that claim they can heal are very popular.

Thousands of people also go to The Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico City and the spas in Lourdes France hoping for a healing.

But remember only Jesus can heal.

Also please note that this man never thanked Jesus for healing him.

In fact instead of thanking Jesus this man went and ratted on Jesus. (Verse 15)

Verse 16 tells us; ***“So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.”***

Notice Jesus did not asking that man; *“do you want your condition changed”*;

Jesus was asking this man; *“do you want to be changed”*.

Jesus was asking a spiritual question but this man was only thinking about physical healing.

This is a serious question for each of us this morning; *“Do I really want Jesus to change me” or “do I just want Jesus to change my condition?”*

In The Gospel According To John, John always refers to Jesus’ miracles as *“signs.”*

A sign points to the real thing.

A sign is a miraculous act that reveals a spiritual truth about the character of God.

Signs reveal the glory of The Lord.

A sign emphasizes the significance of the act rather than the marvel of the act it self.

There are seven signs in The Gospel According To John.

I believe the sign in this miracle is pointing to the grace of God.

We use the word *“grace”* a great deal but grace is not well understood, rarely do we think about what grace means, and often we do not accept the concept of grace.

Grace is defined as unmerited favor shown to someone.

Grace is always given – grace is never earned.

Grace is a free gift.

God's grace is given to those who do not deserve it, to those who seldom recognize it, and rarely thank God for it.

Grace is a gift that costs everything to the giver and nothing to the receiver.

That is why God alone gets the glory in our salvation.

Jesus did all the work when Jesus died on the cross for us.

Ephesians 2:8 says, ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."***

If we really want to be compensated for our work, then we are in trouble because Romans 6:23 tells us ***"... the wages of sin is death..."***

But, if we want to receive what God wants to freely give us, then the last part of Romans 6:23 offers us something far better than just compensation: ***"but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."***

In Phillip Yancey's book, *What's So Amazing About Grace*, he writes, *"Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more—no amount of spiritual calisthenics and renunciations, no amount of knowledge gained from seminaries, no amount of crusading on behalf of righteous causes. And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less—no amount of racism or pride or pornography or adultery or even murder can make God love us less."*

Grace means that God already loves us just like we are **but** God loves us too much to leave us like we are.

You see God want to mold us and to change us to be more like Jesus.

The question is *"do I really want Jesus to change me" or "do I just want Jesus to change my condition?"*

This account shows us Jesus' passion for the forgotten, the hopeless, and the lost.

This man did nothing to earn being physically healed.

He did not even thank Jesus.

In fact he turned on Jesus by reporting Jesus to the Jewish leaders.

Sadly that is a picture of many of us today.

You see everything we are, everything we have, and every thing we have accomplished is because of God's grace.

John 1:17 tells us, ***"For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."***

God choose us and God saves us when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

Jesus paid the price of our sins. Jesus gave up His very life on the cross in order for us to receive all of God's promised rewards.

The greatest reward of all is to have a personal relationship with The King of Kings and to spend eternity with Almighty God in heaven.

God loves you so much and Jesus wants you to be with Him despite of knowing all of the awful things you have ever done and knowing all of the mean selfish things you have ever thought.

Jesus loves you so much that He promised the indwelling Holy Spirit to all who would accept Him as their savior and make Him the Lord of their life.

2nd Corinthians 8:9 says, ***“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”***

God's grace is kindness, mercy, and forgiveness freely given to undeserving people.

God freely extends His amazing grace to miserable rotten sinners like me and you.

That is what is so amazing about God's grace.

This account also reminds us that God's reward system is not like ours and that God's grace is available to all people.

God's Word to us today challenges each of us to ask ourselves; *“Am I truly thankful for God's grace?”*

As Christians we are called to extend God's grace to all people.

All means all; not just the ones like us, or the people who are nice to us; or the people who can return the favor.

We should want to extend kindness and compassion to other people because of our love for Jesus.

If we are truly grateful for all that Jesus has done for us we will gladly extend grace to all the people we come in contact with.

We will gladly obey all of Jesus' commandments and we gladly do the work The Lord has asked us to do.

We will be eager to work for The Lord because we love our Lord.

You see when we love someone the work does not seem like work any more.

Once we understand and appreciate all that The Lord freely gives to us our life will take on a whole new dimension.

We will want to be an active part of advancing The Kingdom of God on earth.

This man was physically healed but sadly there is no indication that he was spiritually healed.

This man missed his opportunity to enjoy fellowship with The Lord.

Jesus' warning to this man is also a warning to each of us.

We all need to repent if we want Jesus to change us and to make us more like Jesus.

The question for each of us this morning; *“Do I really want Jesus to change me”* or *“do I just want Jesus to change my condition?”*

AMEN