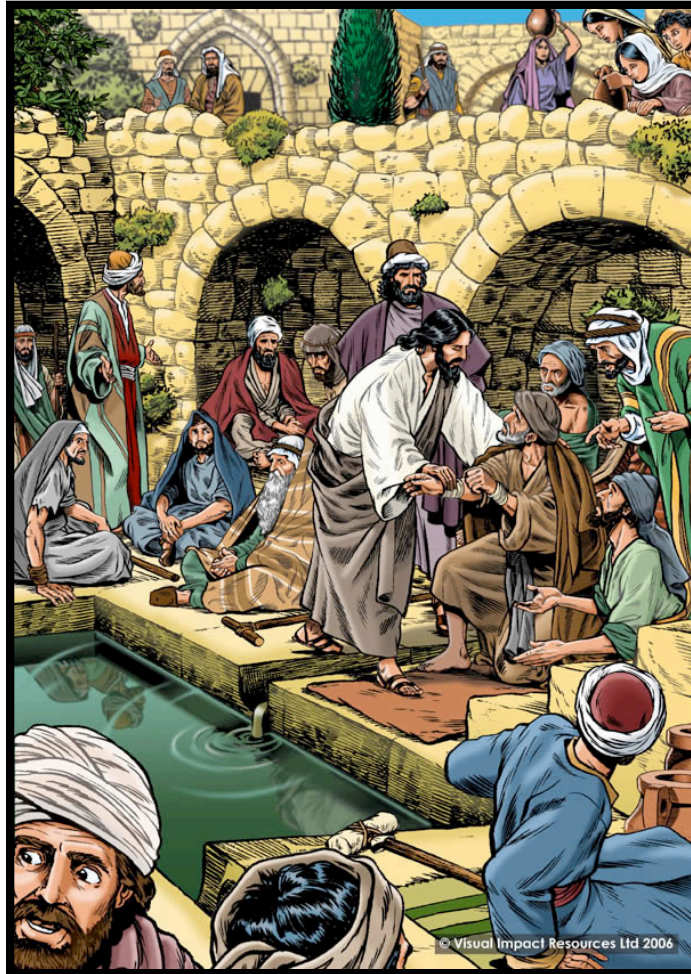


"DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE"



JOHN 5:1-15

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“DO YOU WANT TO BE MAKE WHOLE”**JOHN 5:1-15****INTRODUCTION**

QUITE SOME TIME HAD PASSED BETWEEN THE EVENTS IN JOHN 4 AND THIS PARTICULAR EPISODE IN JOHN 5

WE ARE TOLD BY HISTORIANS THAT THE SPAN BETWEEN CHAPTER 4 AND CHAPTER 5 IS ABOUT ONE YEAR.

WE SEE JESUS ONCE AGAIN IN JERUSALEM ATTENDING ONE OF THE FEASTS OF THE JEWS.

MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, THE EXACT FEAST THAT JESUS WAS ATTENDING IS NOT GIVEN TO US IN THIS TEXT. MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IT WAS PROBABLY A PASSOVER FEAST.

DURING THIS FEAST YOU HAD FOLK FROM ALL OVER HAVING FUN AND FROLICKING AND FEASTING TOGETHER,

BUT WHILE THERE IS FUN AND FROLIC AT THE FEAST, THERE IS PAIN AND SUFFERING AT THE POOL.

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES WE CAN GET SO CAUGHT UP IN OUR OWN PERSONAL LIFE AND LIFE'S ENJOYMENT THAT WE CAN SOMEHOW PUT OUT OF OUR MIND THE FACT THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE SUFFERING EVERY DAY.

I HEARD A SONG IN WHICH A FELLOW WAS THANKING THE LORD BECAUSE HE REALIZED THAT THE FOOD, THE CLOTHING, THE SHELTER, AND HIS SIGHT WERE NOT GUARANTEES.

HE HAD LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT JUST BECAUSE I'M EATING DOESN'T MEAN EVERYBODY'S EATING.

JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD DOESN'T MEAN SOMEBODY DIDN'T SLEEP OUTSIDE LAST NIGHT,

AND WHILE I AM BLESSED TO HAVE THE ACTIVITY OF MY LIMBS, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE AREN'T THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHO ARE CRIPPLED EVERYDAY, AND MAIMED.

NOW, JESUS GOES TO THIS FEAST, BUT NOT NECESSARILY JUST TO HAVE FUN.

JESUS ATTENDS THIS FEAST BUT GOES BY WAY OF THE POOL OF BETHESDA.

THIS POOL HAD FIVE PORCHES, GATE, ARCHES, OR DOORWAYS—FIVE DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET INTO THE POOL.

THE RECORD SAYS THAT ON THE FIVE PORCHES OF THE POOL LAY SICK PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

SOME OF THEM BLIND, SOME CRIPPLED, SOME OF THEM PARALYZED.

YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THE QUESTION, WHAT ARE ALL THESE SICK PEOPLE DOING LYING ON THESE PORCHES AND THESE GATEWAYS TO THIS BEAUTIFUL POOL?

THEY'RE NOT IN THE POOL THEY'RE JUST LYING AROUND THE POOL, AND MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN THERE A LONG TIME.

IT WAS BELIEVED BY THOSE SICK PEOPLE AND OTHERS THAT WHEN THE WATER WAS TROUBLED, OR MAY I SAY THIS, WHEN THE WATER WOULD BEGIN TO BUBBLE UP, AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN HAD COME DOWN AND HAD TROUBLED THE WATER.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY GOT THIS NEXT IDEA, BUT THEY SAID, WHOEVER STEPS IN THE WATER FIRST GETS HEALED OF WHATSOEVER DISEASE HE HAS,

SO, ALL OF THESE SICK PEOPLE *WOULD* BE ON THE PORCHES OF THE POOL JUST WATCHING THE WATER.

THEY WERE ALL THERE FOR ONE REASON, TO WAIT FOR THE WATER TO BE TROUBLED, SO THEY COULD STEP IN AND GET HEALED.

FOUR THINGS STOOD OUT TO ME THAT I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION, AND I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THESE POINTS AHEAD OF TIME.

- 1. FIRST, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE SUPERSTITION SURROUNDING THE POOL**
- 2. THEN I WANT TO LOOK AT THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THE POOL.**
- 3. THIRDLY, I WANT YOU TO HEAR THE QUESTION JESUS ASKED AT THE POOL**
- 4. AND THEN WE'LL CLOSE TALKING BOUT THE HEALING THAT WENT ON AT THE POOL.**

I. FIRST LETS LOOK AT THIS SUPERSTITION SURROUNDING THE POOL

A. BIBLE SCHOLARS AND BIBLICAL HISTORIANS TELL US THAT THE POOL OF BETHESDA WAS SITUATED ON WHAT WE CALL TODAY A MINERAL HOT SPRING.

- 1. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, THERE ARE PLACES IN THIS WORLD WHERE WATER BOILS AND BUBBLES FROM THE GROUND.**
- 2. WE HAVE SEVERAL MINERAL HOT SPRINGS IN AMERICA.**
- 3. THE ANCIENTS USED TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH WATERS BROUGHT HEALING POWERS.**

4. **A LOT OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS WOULD SPEND TIME IN THESE WATERS BELIEVING THEY BROUGHT HEALING.**
5. **WE MAKE OUR OWN VERSION TODAY; THEY'RE CALLED JACUZZIS.**
6. **IT'S JUST THE SAME BASIC IDEA, IT BRINGS RELAXATION TO THE MUSCLES AND IMPROVES CIRCULATION.**
7. **BACK IN THE DAY, HOWEVER, THEY REALLY COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHERE THE TROUBLING OF THE WATER CAME FROM, AND SO THEY SAID AN ANGEL CAME FROM HEAVEN.**

B. I DON'T KNOW WHO CAME UP WITH THE LEGEND THAT WHOEVER GOT IN THE POOL FIRST—THEY'RE ALL CRIPPLED.

1. **HOW ARE THEY GOING TO BEAT THE NEXT GUY INTO THE POOL?**
2. **THE BIBLE DOESN'T TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT HOW DEEP THE POOL IS, AND I'M JUST SAYING, IF SOMEBODY CRIPPLED, PARALYZED, OR HALT, FALLS OVER IN THAT POOL, THERE'S NOT ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE AROUND TO HELP THEM OUT.**

C. THERE ARE STILL SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE TODAY.

1. **IN THIS CENTURY, WE STILL HAVE PEOPLE WHO, WALKING DOWN THE STREET, WON'T SPLIT THE POLE, OR THEY'RE SPRINKLING SALT OVER THEIR SHOULDER**
2. **SOME WON'T OPEN AN UMBRELLA IN THE HOUSE**
3. **WE HAVE PEOPLE TODAY THAT STILL BELIEVE IN ZODIAC SIGNS.**

4. **THEY STILL BELIEVE THAT THE MONTH THEY WERE BORN IN SHAPES THEIR CHARACTER AND THEIR ATTITUDES AND THEIR DISPOSITION.**

5. **THAT'S NOT TRUE.**

- **I KNOW CRAZY PEOPLE THAT WERE BORN IN EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR.**
- **KNOW FOLK WITH MONEY THAT WERE BORN IN EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR, AND ALSO, BROKE FOLK BORN IN EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR.**
- **BUT WE STILL ASK THAT QUESTION: WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?**
- **WE STILL HAVE PEOPLE KNOCKING ON WOOD FOR GOOD LUCK.**

E. **"CHURCH GOING" HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT SUPERSTITIOUS.**

1. **SOME FOLKS THINK THAT ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS JUST COME TO CHURCH BECAUSE ATTENDING CHURCH SHOULD BRING GOOD LUCK.**
2. **BY GOING TO CHURCH, YOUR LIFE SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY GET BETTER, YOU THINK.**
3. **YOU DON'T READ YOUR BIBLE,**
4. **YOU DON'T PRAY,**
5. **YOU DON'T WITNESS**
6. **YOU DON'T COME TO BIBLE STUDY.**
7. **YOU DON'T COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL,**
8. **YOU JUST COME TO CHURCH BECAUSE, TO YOU, THAT'S GOOD LUCK; AND IF ONE THING**

**GOES BAD, YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY,
LORD, WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME.**

**9. YOU KNOW I GO TO CHURCH . . . AS IF GOING
TO CHURCH GETS YOU BROWNIE POINTS WITH
GOD.**

**10. NOW, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS,
BUT, THE DEVIL GOES TO CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY.**

- **SOME OF US INVITE HIM TO COME WITH US. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM SAVED.**
- **SOME PEOPLE THINK, JUST CARRYING MY BIBLE AROUND OR WEARING A CROSS AROUND THEIR NECK IS GOING TO BRING THEM LUCK.**
- **YOU DON'T READ THE BIBLE BUT YOU'RE BRAGGING, "I ALWAYS GOT IT WITH ME." DAVID DIDN'T SAY, "THE WORD I HAVE IN MY HAND." HE SAID, *THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART.*'**

G. AND WE WEAR THESE CROSSES

- 1. NOW, BACK IN THE DAY, I GUESS THAT MEANT SOMETHING: IF YOU WORE A CROSS, I GUESS THAT MEANT YOU WERE A CHRISTIAN.**
- 2. BUT I WAS FLIPPING CHANNELS RECENTLY, AND I SAW PEOPLE WITH CROSSES ON DOING ALL KINDS OF CRAZY THINGS.**
- 3. I SAW A CROSS ON SOMEBODY'S NOSE, A CROSS IN SOMEBODY'S BELLY BUTTON**
- 4. I SAW A RAPPER WHO WAS CUSSING AND CARRYING ON, ANGRY, MAD.**
- 5. I SAW HIM WITH TATTOOS OF CROSSES.**

6. I'VE WATCHED SPORTS AND I'VE SEEN THESE PLAYERS WHO KNOW THEY AREN'T CATHOLIC CROSSING THEMSELVES.
7. THEY GREW UP DOWN IN THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BUT THEY SCORE A TOUCHDOWN, AND THEY START DOING GESTURES OF CROSSING THEMSELVES.
8. THAT MEANS NOTHING. IT'S SUPERSTITIOUS.

H. GOD IS CALLING US TO BE THE CHURCH

1. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONTH IN WHICH YOU WERE BORN
2. WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS THE DAY YOU WERE "BORN AGAIN"
3. KNOCKING ON WOOD WON'T HELP YOU, BUT KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR THROUGH PRAYER AND FAITH IN HIM WILL HELP YOU.
4. FOLK ARE WORRIED ABOUT SPLITTING THE POLE—YOU NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT SPLITTING THE CHURCH BY SOWING DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHREN
5. GOD HAS NEVER CALLED US TO THROW SALT, BUT I DID HEAR HIM SAY, YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

II. SECONDLY, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THE POOL.

- A. **THEY WERE SICK, IMPOTENT, BLIND, PARALYZED WITHERED, HURTING PEOPLE.**
 1. SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE WERE HURTING BECAUSE THEY HAD LIVED A LIFE OF SIN.

2. **SOME OF THEM—THEIR SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS CAUSED THEM TO LIE MONTHS AND YEARS IN PAIN AND AGONY AT THE POOL**

EXPOSITION

I'VE GOT A BUDDY WHO HAS A SERMON ON THIS TEXT. HE TITLED HIS SERMON, "RUT PEOPLE."

HE TALKS ABOUT BEING 'STUCK-IN-A-RUT.'

3. **IF YOU'RE LYING AT A POOL 38 YEARS, YOU'RE IN A RUT.**
4. **DR. WILLIAMS SAYS IN HIS SERMON THAT EVERYBODY WHO IS IN A RUT HAS TO FIND A 'RUT BUDDY' BECAUSE IT'S NO FUN BEING IN A RUT ALL BY YOURSELF.**
5. **NOT TO QUOTE HIS WHOLE SERMON, BUT HE SAYS, WITH RUT PEOPLE, EVERYBODY'S RUT HAS TO BE WORSE THAN THE NEXT PERSON.**
6. **YOU HEAR THE CONVERSATIONS OF RUT PEOPLE**
7. **THEY ARE THE KIND OF FOLK WHO, WHEN YOU CALL THEM IN THE MORNING AND SAY, "GOOD MORNING," SAY, "WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT?"**
8. **YOU SAY, "YOU'RE RIGHT. IT AIN'T THAT GOOD. MY BUNIONS ARE ACTING UP THIS MORNING**
9. **THEY SAY, "THAT AIN'T NOTHING. MY KNEES HAVE DONE GONE OUT AND MY STOMACH HURTS.**
10. **YOU SAY, "WELL, NOT ONLY DOES MY BUNION HURT, BUT I HAVE THIS HUMP ON MY BACK AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.**

11. RUT PEOPLE: THEY'RE STUCK AND THEY ONLY HANG AROUND WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO STUCK,

12. AFTER A WHILE IT ALMOST BECOMES COMFORTABLE TO REMAIN IN YOUR RUT.

B. AMERICA MAY NOT BE A PERFECT PLACE, BUT IS IS ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES IN THE WORLD THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY IN A RUT!

1. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES HERE YET, I'VE NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT RUT PEOPLE.
2. THEY KIND OF HANG OUT AT THE POOL
3. YOU HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL POOL AND YOU HAVE THESE PEOPLE CAUGHT UP IN THESE RUT LIVES, AND AFTER A WHILE, THEY START CONVINCING OTHER PEOPLE THAT LIFE ISN'T TO MUCH OF ANYTHING.
4. THEY'RE JUST GLAD TO BE AWAKE.

EXPOSITION

MY GRANDMA ONE SAID TO ME, "HOW YOU DOIN'?" I SAID, "GRANDMA, I'M EXISTING." SHE SAID, "COCKROACHES EXIST." SHE SAID, "YOU'RE A 'HUMAN BEING YOU SHOULD BE DOING MORE THAN JUST EXISTING.

5. THERE ARE MASSES OF PEOPLE AT THIS POOL SIMPLY EXISTING, BELIEVING, ONE DAY, MAYBE IF I'M THE FIRST ONE, THE LUCKY ONE, I CAN BE MADE BETTER .
6. THEY CAN HEAR THE FEASTING MUSIC, THEY CAN SEE THE DANCING, THEY CAN SMELL THE FOOD, BUT THEY'RE STUCK AROUND THIS POOL WAITING FOR SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL.

C. NOW WATCH THIS: THEY'RE WAITING FOR AN ANGEL TO COME TROUBLE THE WATER, AND JESUS—NOT AN ANGEL, BUT JESUS, THE SON OF GOD IN HUMAN FLESH—COMES THROUGH THE CROWD.

1. THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE WATER WAITING FOR AN ANGEL, AND HERE IS THE VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD AT THE POOL.
2. AND NOT ONE OF THE THOUSANDS THAT ARE AROUND—NOT ONE—RECOGNIZES WHO HE IS.
3. JESUS IS JUST WALKING AMIDST THE PEOPLE BY THE POOL.
4. NOBODY'S NOTICING HIM.
5. NO ONE'S ASKING HIM ANY QUESTIONS NOBODY'S—. IF ANYTHING, I BET THEY WERE THINKING: I WONDER WHAT HIS AILMENT IS,

III. SO, JESUS WALKS OVER TO ONE MAN OUT OF THE THOUSANDS PRESENT AND, THE RECORD SAYS, ASKS HIM A QUESTION: WILL YOU BE MADE WHOLE?

- A. ONE WRITER SAYS, THIS IS, A QUESTION OF COMPASSION: WOULD YOU BE MADE WHOLE?
 1. IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE A RIDICULOUS QUESTION.
 2. THE FELLOW MIGHT THINK: I'M SITTING OUT ON THIS PORCH, WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR THE TROUBLING OF THE WATER, AND YOU'RE ASKING ME, DO I WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?
- A. **BUT I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING. SOME PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE WHOLE.**
 1. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE IF THEY BECAME WHOLE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, AND THEY KNOW THIS.

2. **IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IF YOU BECOME WHOLE, THEN YOU CAN NO LONGER BE WAITED ON HAND AND FOOT.**
3. **IF WE BECOME WHOLE, PEOPLE WON'T BE FEELING SORRY FOR US.**
4. **WE KNOW THAT IF WE START STANDING UP ON OUR OWN FEET, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE BABIED ANYMORE.**
5. **WE KNOW THAT IF WE GET UP AND GET AN EDUCATION, WE CAN'T GET A CHECK FOR FREE ANYMORE.**

C. SO, THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?

1. **THE ANSWER IS FOR SOME, "NO", BECAUSE BEING MADE WHOLE MEANS THAT-I HAVE TO COME OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.**
 - a. **MEN LOVE DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT.**
2. **DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE? IT IS A WONDERFUL QUESTION.**
3. **WHAT IN THE WORLD IS STOPPING YOU FROM JUST ANSWERING THE QUESTION WITH A YES OR A NO?**
4. **THIS MAN GAVE EXCUSES. HE SAID, "WHEN THE WATER'S TROUBLED, I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO PUT ME IN."**
5. **JESUS SAYS, I DIDN'T ASK YOU ABOUT THE WATER.**

E. AND I CAN ALMOST HEAR JESUS ASKING YOU, RIGHT IN THIS CHURCH RIGHT NOW, DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?

1. **WHAT'S STOPPING YOU, FROM READING YOUR BIBLE?**
2. **SEE, YOU CAN'T BE MADE WHOLE JUST BY HEARING A SERMON.**
3. **YOU CAN'T GET SAVED THAT WAY, BUT ONE OF THE WAYS YOU CAN BE MADE WHOLE IS BY STUDYING THE BIBLE.**
4. **DO YOU WANT A'S IN SCHOOL INSTEAD OF F'S? THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TURN OFF THE TV, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP GOING OUT ON THE WEEKEND**
5. **BUT YOU START THINKING, NO ,E/? NO GOING OUT? AND YOU DECIDE, NO, I THINK I'LL JUST "KICK IT" WITH MY D'S AND F'S.**
6. **YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? YOU DON'T WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE.**
7. **SOMEONE ASKS, DO YOU WANT A BETTER JOB?**
 - a. **YOU SAY, SURE, I WANT A BETTER JOB.**
 - b. **BUT THAT MEANS, BRETHERN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET SOMETHING IN YOUR HEAD, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PULL OUT THOSE BRAIDS.**
 - c. **YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE OFF ALL THOSE EARRINGS AND PUT ON A SUIT WHEN YOU GO TO AN INTERVIEW.**
 - d. **YOU NEED TO QUIT BLASTING SNOOP DOG AND LITTLE JOHN ON YOUR STEREO.**
 - e. **YOU NEED TO DRIVE UP THERE LIKE YOU HAVE SOME SENSE**

- f. **YOU CAN'T BE TALKING ABOUT SHOOTING COPS IN YOUR CAR AND BE TRYING TO GET A JOB AS A POLICEMAN.**

F. THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?

1. **THE ANSWER SHOULD HAVE BEEN YES, BUT THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA GAVE EXCUSES.**
2. **HE STARTED BLAMING EVERYBODY ELSE.**
3. **"I WOULD'VE BEEN MADE WHOLE BY NOW IF EVERYBODY HADN'T JUMPED IN THE WATER BEFORE ME."**
4. **"NOBODY WANTS TO HELP ME INTO THE WATER."**
5. **BUT JESUS IS TRYING TO ASK THE MAN SOMETHING ABOUT HIS TRUE CONDITION:**
6. **"DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?"**

G. JESUS ASKS HIM THAT BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW LONG HE'D BEEN THERE.

1. **THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AND THE SAME DISEASE. THAT'S A LONG TIME. THAT'S MY WHOLE LIFE.**
2. **THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS HE'D BEEN IN THAT CONDITION.**
3. **NOW, ONE WRITER SAID THIS, AND I HAD TO LAUGH BECAUSE IT WAS SO FUNNY: WHY DIDN'T HE JUST SCOOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE WATER SO THAT WHEN IT WAS TROUBLED, HE AT LEAST COULD ROLL OVER.**
4. **MY GOODNESS, 38 YEARS AND YOU'RE STILL BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE FOR YOUR CONDITION?**

5. **HERE'S MY POINT. IN LIFE ALL OF US DIDN'T HAVE MAMA AND DADDY.**
 6. **I UNDERSTAND. ALL OF US WEREN'T RAISED WITH A SILVER SPOON IN OUR MOUTH.**
 7. **I UNDERSTAND. YOU KNOW, SOME OF US HAD TO GO TO BED LISTENING TO SIRENS AND GUNSHOTS, AND SOME OF US GREW UP NEXT TO CRACK HOUSES.**
 8. **I UNDERSTAND ALL OF THAT. BUT 38 YEARS LATER, YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT "NOBODY TO HELP ME?"**
 9. **BY NOW, YOU OUGHT TO BE HELPING SOMEBODY ELSE!**
- H. YOU'RE WAITING FOR AN ANGEL, BUT GOD DOES NOT DISPATCH AN ANGEL. HE SENDS HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.**
1. **HERE IN YOUR MIDST IS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, BUT YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON THE TROUBLING OF THE WATER THAT YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT DIVINITY HAS INVADED YOUR DISEASE.**
 2. **JESUS SAYS, DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE? THE MAN ANSWERS, I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO HELP ME.**
 3. **JESUS SAYS OK, HERE I AM. I'M THE SON OF GOD AND I'VE COME TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU'RE SAYING THAT I'M NOT ANYBODY?**
 4. **HE GIVES HIM THIS WORD: GET UP, PICK YOUR BED UP, AND WALK. THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.**
 5. **THE LORD TOLD HIM, GET UP. I LIKE THAT.**
 6. **BOY, HE SAID, GET UP.**

7. THE MAN HAD BEEN LYING 38 YEARS, BUT WHEN JESUS SAID, GET UP, HE GOT UP.
8. HE WAS SO SHOCKED THAT JESUS HAD TO SAY, NOW, PICK UP YOUR BED.
9. THE FELLOW REACHED OVER, PICKED UP THE BED, AND JUST STOOD THERE. JESUS SAID, NOW WALK.

I. CAN YOU HEAR THE LORD TRYING TO TELL SOMEBODY IN CHURCH THIS MORNING.

1. GET UP! STOP WALLOWING IN SELF PITY.
2. GET UP! STOP BLAMING EVERYBODY ELSE FOR YOUR PROBLEMS
3. GET UP. STOP SAYING, IT S MY MAMA AND MY DADDY AND MY COUSINS AND MY UNCLES.
4. GET UP, AND PICK UP YOUR BED.
5. THAT THING THAT'S BEEN CARRYING YOU ALL THIS TIME—YOU NEED TO PICK IT UP AND YOU NEED TO START WALKING.
6. IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO RUN, YOU HAVE TO AT FIRST START OUT WALKING.

IV. THERE WAS NO TROUBLING OF THE WATER, THERE WAS NO ANGEL FROM HEAVEN. JESUS DIDN'T EVEN PICK UP THE MAN AND DIP HIM IN THE POOL.

A. ALL HE DID WAS JUST SPEAK THE WORD, AND WHEN JESUS SPOKE THE WORD AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA WHICH IS THE HOUSE OF MERCY TO THE MAN.

1. STRENGTH ENTERED INTO HIS PREVIOUSLY IMPOTENT LIMBS.

2. **STRENGTH FILLED HIS ANKLE BONES AND LEG BONES, HIP BONES AND THIGH BONES, AND HE SOMEHOW, WAS ABLE, MIRACULOUSLY TO RECEIVE A HEALING.**

B. I'VE GOOD NEWS FOR SOMEBODY TODAY. JESUS IS HERE

1. **HE IS AT OUR BETHESDA, AND IT'S NOW TIME FOR US TO COME TO HIM.**
2. **SOMEBODY ONCE SAID, HE WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE BRAND NEW, AND HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU; FOR JESUS IS STILL IN THE SAVING BUSINESS.**
3. **I CAN, SEE HIM WALKING AMONG THE SPIRITUALLY SICK, BUT THE SICK NOT RECOGNIZING WHO HE IS.**
4. **HE'S STILL AMONG US WALKING, NOT NECESSARILY WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THAT WHICH IS PHYSICAL, BUT ON THAT WHICH IS SPIRITUAL, BECAUSE SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS ARE ACTUALLY WORSE THAN PHYSICAL PROBLEMS.**
5. **JESUS SAID, IT'S BETTER TO BE PHYSICALLY HALT OR BLINDED AND MAIMED WITH YOUR SOUL SAVED AND YOUR SELF ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN THAN IT IS TO HAVE A PERFECT, PHYSICAL BODY AND BUST HELL WIDE OPEN.**

C. HE'S WALKING AMONG US. HE'S ASKING US THE SAME QUESTION: DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE ?

1. **AND IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES, THEN HIS NEXT COMMAND IS, THEN RISE UP AND WALK.**
2. **BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD, FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT DECLARED SURELY, HE HAS**

BORNE OUR GRIEFS (THAT MEANS OUR WEAKNESSES AND OUR DISTRESS)

3. **THE BIBLE SAYS THAT HE CARRIED OUR SORROW AND OUR PAIN, BUT WE ESTEEMED HIM AFFLICTED AND SMITTEN OF GOD. HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES, AND THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.”**

D. THE RECORD SAYS, THIS MAN IMMEDIATELY GOT UP AND WALKED. YES, AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DID HE WALK?

1. **HE DID NOT WALK TO THE LOCAL BAR AND TOAST HIS NEW-FOUND FORTUNE.**
2. **HE DID NOT WALK TO THE NEAREST HOUSE-PARTY AND BEGIN TO DO “THE DOUGIE” AND “THE WOO-TANG,” OR THE “GIDDY UP” AND “THE SEXY WALK” AND “THE PATTY CAKE.”**
3. **HE DID NOT WALK TO THE NEAREST CASINO AND TRY HIS LUCK AT THE CRAP TABLE**
4. **HE DID NOT WALK TO THE LOCAL RACE TRACK AND PUT ALL OF HIS MONEY ON A LUCKY HORSE.**

EXPOSITION

IT WAS THE SABBATH, AND THIS ISN'T IN THE TEXT, BUT IT'S IN MY SANCTIFIED MIND.

A LITTLE BOY IS HOLDING ON TO HIS MAMA AND THEY ARE WALKING INTO THE TEMPLE.

I CAN HEAR THE LITTLE BOY SAYING TO MAMA, “MAMA, WHY DIDN'T WE ALL COME TO CHURCH TOGETHER?”

AND MAMA TURNS TO THE LITTLE BOY AND SAYS, SON, YOU KNOW YOUR DADDY IS PARALYZED.

EARLY, THIS MORNING, HIS FRIENDS CAME AND CARRIED HIM AND DROPPED HIM OFF AT THE POOL THAT'S WHERE HE'LL BE ALL DAY

AND THE LITTLE BOY TURNS BACK TO MAMA AND SAYS, IF DADDY CAN'T WALK, THEN WHO IS THAT MAN THAT LOOKS LIKE DADDY AND IS CARRYING DADDY'S BED?

ABOUT THAT TIME, MAMA LOOKS AROUND, SEES DADDY WALKING, AND BEGINS TO GIVE GOD THE PRAISE.

I CAN HEAR HER SAY, IN MY SANCTIFIED MIND, "THIS MORNING THAT BED CARRIED HIM, BUT OH, THIS AFTERNOON, HE'S CARRYING THAT BED. LORD, HAVE MERCY."

E. THE MAN WALKED INTO THE PLACE TO WHERE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WAS IN ORDER TO GIVE GOD THE PRAISE.

- 1. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?**
- 2. HE RAN INTO SOME PSEUDO RELIGIONISTS WHO STOPPED HIM AT THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH AND SAID TO HIM, DON'T YOU KNOW THIS IS THE SABBATH, AND ON THIS DAY, YOU'RE TO DO ABSOLUTELY NO WORK?**
- 3. AND THE MAN IS LOOKING AROUND WONDERING WHAT WORK HE'S DONE ON THIS DAY.**
- 4. THEY SAY, IT'S UNLAWFUL FOR YOU TO CARRY YOUR BED.**
- 5. RIGHT THEN THE MAN SAYS TO THEM, THE SAME MAN THAT TOLD ME TO STAND UP ON MY FEET ALSO TOLD ME TO PICK UP MY BED AND WALK.**

6. **THEY SAY, WHO IS HE THAT TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD PICK UP YOUR BED**
7. **AND THE ANSWER COMES IN A VERY STRANGE WAY. HE SAYS**
 - a. **I DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. I GOT SO HAPPY THAT I COULD WALK, I DID NOT ASK THE STRANGER HIS NAME,**
 - b. **I WAS GLAD THAT I HAD TWO LEGS THAT COULD FINALLY MOVE, AND I MADE MY WAY INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD**
 - c. **I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS NAME WAS, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING,**
 - d. **BUT I'M SO GLAD HE STOPPED BY THE POOL THIS MORNING AND SPOKE PEACE TO MY TROUBLED SOUL**
 - e. **I'M SO GLAD I TOOK HIM AT HIS WORD**
 - f. **AND IF HE TOLD ME TO CARRY MY BED, I'M NOT ACCEPTING WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT**
 - g. **I'M GOING TO CARRY MY BED BECAUSE, MY BED IS A TESTIMONY TO WHERE— AND *FROM* WHERE—THE LORD HAS BROUGHT ME.**

F. THE MAN IS NOW UNDER DOUREST, BUT THAT'S ALRIGHT BECAUSE, JESUS HAS MADE HIM WHOLE.

1. **SOMEBODY HERE, YOU NEED TO CARRY YOUR BED.**
2. **YOU NEED TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT ONCE YOU WERE DOWN, BUT NOW YOU'RE UP; ONCE YOU WERE DISTRESSED, BUT NOW YOU HAVE JOY.**

G. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT JESUS FOUND THE MAN AND SAID SIR AND HE LOOKED UP AT JESUS, AND JESUS SAID, YOU'VE BEEN MADE WHOLE. NOW WATCH: JESUS DIDN'T SAY SIR, I JUST HEALED YOUR BODY. HE SAID YOU'VE BEEN MADE WHOLE.

1. WHOLENESS IS MORE THAN JUST EXTERNAL; IT'S ALSO-INTERNAL.
2. I BELIEVE WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING WAS, I'VE FORGIVEN YOU OF ALL OF YOUR SINS.
3. I HAVE WIPED YOUR SLATE CLEAN
4. I'VE TAKEN YOUR SINS AND CAST THEM INTO THE SEA OF FORGETFULNESS.
5. I'VE TAKEN YOUR SINS AND REMOVED THEM FROM YOU AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST
6. I'VE TAKEN YOUR SINS, PUT THE IN A BAG, AND TOSSED THEM OUT OVER MY SHOULDER; THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE FOR YOU.
7. I'VE MADE YOU BRAND NEW. NOW GO AND SIN NO MORE.
8. I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO TELL THE MAN, FROM THIS POINT ON, YOU NEED TO WALK IN THE LIGHT, THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHT. I BELIEVE HE WAS TELLING HIM, DON'T DO THE SAME THING AGAIN THAT GOT YOU IN THIS SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

H. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JESUS?

1. SOMEBODY LISTENING TO MY VOICE: YOU NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE. STOP DOING THE SAME THING THAT CAUSES THE PAIN.
2. IF YOU DO THE SAME THING, YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE SAME RESULTS.

3. BUT, IF YOU CHANGE, IF YOU LEAVE SIN ALONE AND WALK AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, SOMETHING SURE-ENOUGH WILL HAPPEN: YOU'LL BE BLESSED.

I. THE MAN THEN WENT SEARCHING FOR THE ONE'S THAT HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT HIM AND JUDGING HIM.

- 1. HE SAID, SIR, I KNOW NOW WHAT HIS NAME IS. HIS NAME IS JESUS.**
- 2. THAT'S HOW I'M WHOLE.**
- 3. AND MANY OF US CAN SAY THE SAME TODAY: HIS NAME IS JESUS. THAT'S HOW I'M WHOLE.**
- 4. SALVATION IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS.**
- 5. JOY IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS.**
- 6. EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS, AND HE'S HERE TODAY TO BLESS YOU.**
- 7. HE'S HERE TODAY TO SAVE YOU AND MAKE YOU WHOLE.**
- 8. IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY AND YOU DON'T KNOW JESUS, YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW HIM RIGHT NOW.**
- 9. DO YOU WANT TO BE SAVED, DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WHOLE?**
- 10. IF YOU DO, COME TO JESUS RIGHT NOW. THERE IS NOBODY LIKE...."JESUS". HE IS ABLE TO TURN;**
 - DARKNESS INTO LIGHT...**
 - DESPAIR INTO DELIGHT...**
 - TURMOIL INTO PEACE...**

- **ANXIETY INTO ASSURANCE...**
- **BURDENS INTO BLESSINGS...**
- **SORROWS INTO JOY...**
- **EMPTINESS INTO FULLNESS...**
- **SELFISHNESS INTO COMPASSION...**
- **LONELINESS INTO LOVE...**
- **ASHES INTO BEAUTY...**
- **MISERY INTO GLORY ...**
- **FILTH INTO PURITY...**
- **FEAR INTO FAITH...**
- **DESPERATION INTO HOPE...**
- **.DECEITFULNESS INTO TRUTH...**
- **NOTHING INTO SOMETHING...**
- **.NOBODY INTO SOMEBODY...**
- **WICKEDNESS INTO RIGHTEOUSNESS...**
- **WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTH ...**
- **VICE INTO VIRTUE ...**
- **HUNGER INTO SATISFACTION...**
- **YEARNING INTO CONTENTMENT...**
- **.FAILURE INTO FRUITFULNESS...**
- **BONDAGE INTO LIBERTY...**
- **DEFEAT INTO VICTORY...**

- **PAIN INTO COMFORT...**
- **SADNESS INTO GLADNESS...**
- **SIN INTO SALVATION...**
- **DEATH INTO LIFE...**
- **EARTH INTO HEAVEN !**