

The Great Physician

John 5: 1-9

Wouldn't it be great if there was a place that people could find help and healing for whatever need they faced? A place that was available to all, regardless of their financial or social position, a place that never lacked the resources or ability to provide even the greatest need.

Well, there is such a place. It isn't found among the big cities or medical centers, but at the feet of the Great Physician. Our text reveals a miracle that was performed in the life of a man in desperate need. As we consider the events of that day, I trust you will be encouraged to seek Jesus for your needs, especially those needs of the soul. I want to look at the great truths that are found in the text as we consider: [The Great Physician](#).

I. The Comparison of the Multitude (2-4) – [Vv.2-3 – Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.](#) There was a pool called Bethesda, "house of mercy," by the sheep market that had five porches around it. This was a time of the feast held at Jerusalem. During these times the city was filled with people desiring to take part in the feast. No doubt, many had been brought to the pool during this time, seeking healing. There is a striking resemblance to those at the pool and the lost world around us.

A. The Abundance of the Multitude (3) – [In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.](#) There was a great multitude of folks laying on the porches at Bethesda. These were all sick folks, unable to care for themselves.

- We have a lot of sick people in our world today, but I want to consider this from a spiritual perspective. Our world is filled with those who are sin sick, those who've never trusted Christ as their Savior. This is nothing new; Jesus spoke of the multitude of lost folk in [John 4:35 – Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.](#) More and more, our world is increasing with people, many of whom have never heard the gospel. That ought to challenge us to be a witness for Jesus.

B. The Affliction in the Multitude (3) – These were [impotent, blind, halt, and withered](#). This would've been a pitiful sight to behold, a great multitude totally helpless and hopeless, blind, lame, and wretched.

- That is just like the lost man today, a pitiful sight to behold. He may be healthy, living a good life, even prospering, as far as we can tell; but, within his soul, he is blind to the ways of God, crippled by the sin that dominates his life. There are many who seem to have everything in order, life is good, but they are lost in sin. When sin is finished, it brings forth death.
- I believe the man who lives without Christ is the most needful man on earth. I'm sure we all have friends and loved ones who need a touch of God!

C. The Anticipation of the Multitude (3-4) – In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. This whole crowd was there for one reason; they were waiting for the moving of the water. They were hoping for a chance to be made whole, to be freed from their infirmities.

- We live in a world of hurting people, those miserable in life, waiting for things to get better. They may stand, look you in the eye, and say they are happy, but deep down they are longing for a change. They are seeking for a means to ease the pain, a way to find some joy, something to bring peace to their troubled hearts.
- Jesus was in the midst, but they never recognized Him. He had the power to heal them all, but they were looking to the pool. Jesus is the source for healing. He is right for whatever's wrong in your life. He can fill that void in your life, heal the suffering, and give you hope through His glorious salvation. We need to get those who need healing to the feet of the Great Physician. If only they could recognize Jesus and trust in Him, they could be made whole.

I. The Comparison of the Multitude (2-4)

II. The Condition of the Man – Of the multitude there, our text focuses on one man. He was like the others, a man in need. Through the description of his condition, we can learn much about the condition of mankind.

A. The Duration of His Condition (5) – And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. The man had endured his awful condition for 38 years. It is possible he was born that way, never knowing the joys of life. We have no specifics about his condition, but it is clear that he was helpless. He had been this way so long, he likely wondered if he would ever be made whole.

- There are many today who have been crippled by sin for many years. They are helpless within themselves to find healing. Some even get to the place they feel there is no hope.
- Never let Satan deceive you into believing that lie. As long as you have breath in your body it's not too late to find forgiveness. You are not here by accident today. God brought you here for a purpose.
- One thing is clear from the life of this man; his condition didn't improve with time. He is none better this day than he was 38 years ago. Sin doesn't get better with time. People may get used to a life of sin, but it doesn't go away. Jesus is the only cure. Each of us was born in sin and until we get to Jesus, we will remain in sin. [For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.](#)

B. The Disregard of His Condition (7a) – [The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool:](#) The man lay at the pool hoping to be healed, but he had no one to help him. He had no friends to carry him to the pool. We find no record of anyone caring for the man.

- That is much the way this world is. As long as you have something of benefit to offer, you'll have friends; but when times get hard, they are nowhere to be found. This world doesn't love you. It will not care for you or meet your needs. When you are no longer useful or needed, you'll be dropped like yesterday's newspaper.
- The truth is, Satan doesn't want you to find help in Jesus and he has none to offer. He wants to lure you in, but then leave you stranded. He doesn't show the other side of sin. This world is only concerned with fulfilling its desires. If you're looking to this world, it will let you down.

C. The Distress of His Condition (7b) – [but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.](#) He had no help; there was no way he could make it to the pool himself. We don't know how often he was laid at the pool or how often the water was troubled, but I'm sure he had faced disappointment many times before.

- Imagine his condition, desperately trying to make it, just to see someone else step into the pool. Every time he saw his hopes for healing shattered. He was left to wait, in misery, until the water was troubled again. A life of sin and rejection of Christ will lead to despair. No matter how much he tried or wanted healing, he came up short each time.
- Man can try everything this world offers, but until he gets to Jesus he will remain in his awful condition. People are looking everywhere to find help for their soul, except in Jesus. All of

the good works, church attendance, support groups, etc. will leave you in despair if Jesus isn't Lord of your life. If you're tired of coming up short, come to Jesus!

- If God has spoken to you, today is the day of salvation. Don't put Him off and have to wait for the waters of your soul to be troubled again! You aren't promised another opportunity!

I. The Comparison of the Multitude (2-4)

II. The Condition of the Man

III. The Compassion of the Messiah – The multitude sought a stirring of the water and one found a stirring in his soul. It was on that day he encountered a compassionate Lord. Notice what Jesus did for him.

A. He Came to Him (6a) – [When Jesus saw him lie](#). Jesus saw the man lying in his infirmity. There was a multitude of people there and Jesus came to this one. He could've stopped at any sick bed, but He chose this one. That is nothing short of God's grace. He was no different than the others, they all needed healing.

- I'm glad for the day Jesus came by my way. I was wretched and lost, in a pitiful condition like so many others. Thank God He came to where I was. Jesus works on an individual basis. Had He healed someone else, this man wouldn't have benefited. It takes a personal touch. The salvation of others is wonderful, but it isn't sufficient for us. We too must come to Jesus.

B. He Cared for Him (6b) – [When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case](#). Jesus knew the condition of the man and why he was that way. Notice [V.14 – Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee](#). Jesus looked beyond his faults, failures, and problems and saw his need. Jesus was well aware that all he needed was a touch from the Master.

- He knows about us as well. He knows the secrets of our hearts, the sin and guilt of our lives, and yet He willingly went to Calvary for us. Jesus looked beyond our fault and saw our need. He isn't looking for your righteousness; He is looking to meet your need!

C. He Called to Him (6c) – **Wilt thou be made whole.** Jesus spoke to the man. He gave him the opportunity to respond to His offer. There's no doubt Jesus had the power to heal, but the man needed faith to receive. He had to trust in Jesus for healing.

- Jesus still speaks today, calling lost sinners to repentance. **Wilt thou be made whole?** Healing can be found for those who believe.

D. He Immediately Changed Him (8-9) – **Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.** ^[9] **And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.** What a difference the Lord makes. All the pain and misery of 38 years was gone at the word of our Lord. He was completely healed of his infirmity. He doesn't have to come back for an adjustment or check up.

- When Jesus changes a life, it doesn't take days or weeks; it is instant! He can take a heart that is filled with sin and create a new life immediately. Jesus can do that for you today. Why wait and miss His touch. You'll never be sorry for trusting the Lord!

Conclusion: Jesus is in our midst today. Don't be like all of those who missed His touch. You can have abundant life today. He is able to bring healing to your soul. Why not come as the Lord leads?