**Jesus Our Great Physician**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Peter 2:21-25**

**Sunday Morning**

**April 11, 2021**

**1 Peter 2:21-25**

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A profound question always arises in peoples lives regarding healing. It is:

**“Do You Want to Be Healed”?**

**John 5:1-10**

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 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." 8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Saints, Jesus heals a paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda. This man’s whole focus was on the pool and getting into it first after the angel stirred it. Even though Jesus was right there besides him, he is trying to solicit Jesus for his help to lower him into the pool.

We are often like that: trying to get Jesus to help us fulfill our plans. As we look at this story of the pool of Bethesda there are some Biblical principles to apply for our own lives.

**1. The Circumstance**

Jesus was visiting Jerusalem: Jesus was totally committed to living under the Law of Moses.

**Matthew 5:17-20**

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

This required all Jews living in a 20 mile radius of Jerusalem to present themselves before the Lord in Jerusalem three times in a year: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Today many Churches are now celebrating the feasts in the House of God!

Saints, Jesus has fulfilled the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Firstfruits, the Feast of Pentecost and the next is the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets, the Feast of Yom Kipper and the Feast of Tabernacles when he will come again to dwell with His people – the Second Coming.

Slide of the Pools of Bethesda> Second Slide>

Saints, the pool of Bethesda means the House of Mercy. It was near the sheep gate where they brought the sheep to be sacrificed in the temple. They would wash the sheep in this pool. There was 5 colonnades to shelter the sick. Five is the number of grace. These Pools of Bethesda was a place where many of the sick, blind, crippled, tormented, diseased people came to and hoped to be healed.

Saints, for some of you today, Jesus is ready to visit your Bethesda:

This place speaks to us of our condition of spiritual paralysis as we are stuck looking at an object (the Pool) of false hope. Jesus loves us enough to enter our situation of misery and to heal us.

**2. The Crisis**

**John 5:5-7**

5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 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."

Saints, the paralyzed man was invalid for 38 years. This is almost a full lifetime. He has spent most of his life on a bed paralyzed. One can only imagine his plight.

**The significance of the number 38: It speaks of 3, the number of God and 8 the number of a new beginning. 38 = 5 x 7 + 3, 5 being the number of grace, 7 the number of perfection and 3 the number of God.**

Saints, this man's entire focus is on himself and the pool. He does not even recognize Jesus. When Jesus asks him a question, he does not answer the question but complains about how no one will help him get into the pool.

Saints, I have several questions to ask right now.

**What is your pool?**

Is it your doctors, is it the government's social programs, is it your job, is it the care and affairs of this world?

**What place are you stuck in?**

Are you stuck in a financial burden, are you stuck in a bad relationship, are you stuck on anger, bitterness and unforgiveness, are you stuck on self?

**What thing are you are fixated on?**

Are you fixated on pornography, lust, drugs, alcohol, getting rich, on gossip, trying to fix other people's problems in their homes and have neglected to fix your own problems at home?

**What false hope takes your eyes off the Lord?**

Slide Photo of Ostriches in the sand>

I got this one God, Philosophical Understanding instead of God's Wisdom from His Word!

**3. The Cure**

**John 5:6-9**

6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 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.

"8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Saints, Jesus asked him a question: Do you want to get well? Of all the people there, Jesus singled him out. Even though he did not recognize Jesus, he was the subject of God’s sovereign choice.

Jesus was mistaken for a helper to get him into the pool. This man saw Jesus as just a volunteer to help him into the pool.

Saints, Jesus is not going to follow our plans – we must follow His.

**4. The Command and the Obedience**

Jesus gave a threefold command:

**Get Up (Rise)**

**Pick Up Your Mat** **(Bed)**

**Walk (In Your Healing)**

Jesus may have discerned that he had the faith to be healed, but the man didn't know where to place his faith in. Saints this man was looking to man and not to God!

**Hebrews 11:6**

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

The man simply obeyed Jesus and was healed. Saints, Jesus wants to meet us at our Pools of Bethesda!

**5. The Criticism**

**John 5:8-13**

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' " 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" 13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

Saints, Jesus healed on the Sabbath! Mercy was shown in the House of Mercy but the Jews had become so legalistic that they could not see this as a work of God but only see the violation of the law.

Expound that many need to testify what God has done for you!

Saints, this miracle took place in their pool. These Jews were so fixed on the Law that they could not accept the miracle of Jesus because He had healed on the Sabbath. The letter had killed their view of Jesus, the very embodiment of the Law.

Saints, Jesus extends his mercy by meeting this man a second time. Perhaps this was because the man was at the right place after being healed at the temple.

He came with his back on a bed, he leaves with the bed on his back! His vision has moved from the Pool to Jesus.

**John 5:13-15**

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." 15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

**What is your view on sin no more?**

Sin is a doorway to the enemy. It’s not enough to have this life changing experience; we must maintain the blessing!

Share your testimony on how God healed you

**In Closing:**

**Are we stuck at our own pools of Bethesda?**

Jesus was there but the sick man did not recognize him. He is right next to us in our lives. But we are often fixed onto our own Pools of Bethesda trying to use Him to fulfill our own visions.

Jesus wants us to heal us and to take our eyes off our own Pools of Bethesda. He wants to move us on in the plans He has for us.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**