

## Do You Want To Be Healed?

- As Christians, we are more than followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!
  - > Jesus is more than an inspired teacher!
  - > Jesus is more than just an example for our lives.
  - > We confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior!
- Holding Christ in such high esteem, then, today's scripture could be distressing to us!
  - > Is it possible? Could it be?
  - > Are we hearing things?
  - > Did Jesus just ask a dumb question?
  - > A lame man has suffered for 38 years, and Jesus asks, "Do you want to be healed?"
  - > Can you imagine the response if one of US were to ask that question of the people on our prayer list? "Do you want to be healed?" Really?
- Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival—very probably the Passover. Imagine the opportunities to worship, to pray, to teach, or to observe sacred rituals.
- Instead, Jesus gravitates toward the least, the lowest, and the long-suffering, and seeks out, perhaps, the most hopeless among them. "Do you want to be healed?"
- A dumb question? No, instead, a question that pierces our hearts like a sword all the way from a first century sheep-gate to a 21st century sanctuary.
  - > Jesus confronts each one of us, personally, even as he challenges the lame man!
  - > Jesus confronts our our faith, our church, and our nation even as he challenges Israel!
- John, the gospel writer, wants us to know that Jesus is challenging Israel and challenging us as his followers as he confronts the law dramatically!
  - > The five porticoes symbolize the five books of Moses! The verdict? The law is not enough!
  - > The 38 years (explain) evoke the 38 years Israel wandered in the wilderness as described in Deuteronomy 2:14. The verdict? Without Christ, the covenant people are still wandering!
  - > Every day, Israel is at the edge of that pool!
  - > Every day, our church approaches the waters!
- Do you want to be healed?!
- Jesus calls us to rise up out of our beds of sin—no matter how carefully we've crafted them!
- The Pulpit Commentary calls Christ's offer of healing "a doubtful blessing."
  - > If he accepts, his whole world changes... dramatically, including:
    - > New responsibilities of work and energy!
    - > No help or excuses! Only self-dependence!
- How did the lame man respond? The way we might. He rattled off the same story he always gave, along with an air of melancholy resignation.
- We all have our stories, don't we? How well-rehearsed are our rationalizations! How limited we are by the life-narratives we've adopted and memorized!
- Rick Warren of Saddleback Church (struggled with clinical depression)
  - > Was I willing to do the hard work of facing painful situations, uncovering bitterness, and admitting to deep, resentful anger?
  - > Was I willing to give up control, let God be God, and admit that I can't, but he can; or would I rather insist that I can, even though I can't, holding myself in a cycle of helplessness and hopelessness?
- Jordan Davis of Relevant Faith:
  - > Healing comes with a price tag.
  - > Are we willing to pay the cost?
  - > Are we willing to do what it takes?
  - > Are we ready for the change it brings?
- The generous and gracious power of the Lord refreshes our hopeless souls.
  - > Without Christ our wills will not will what we know they should, and our hearts will not choose as we will!
  - > But Christ heals not only the body—he refreshes the soul!
  - > By his word, this downhearted man isn't merely healed, he is made whole
- How powerful is the word of the Lord! How tall might we stand, and how assuredly might we stride if we put our trust in his word!
- Do you want to be healed? This dumb question becomes a brilliant beacon of light!
  - > Physically and spiritually...
  - > Corporately and individually...
- Do you want to be healed?!

## **John 5:1-9**

- 1 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- 2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes.
- 3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.
- 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.
- 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”
- 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.”
- 8 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.”
- 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.



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