

# Sitting by the Pool

In 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 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. 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 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. 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.

## Introduction:

1. Paul Anderson was called the "world's strongest man." One sports writer called him, "a wonder of nature", when Paul was winning weightlifting titles. He won Olympic gold for weightlifting in 1956. Paul is also in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for an unbelievable feat of strength: lifting more than three tons with his back. As well as being a stellar athlete, Paul Anderson was an outstanding Christian, with a vibrant testimony for Christ. Eventually his kidneys began to fail him and Paul

Anderson died at the age of sixty-one. The strongest man on earth could not keep his body from winding down to the grave.

2. One preacher said, "Each morning my wife gives me brewer's yeast, apple cider vinegar, bee pollen, and a handful of vitamins. In addition, it is my goal to walk two miles each morning. What a way to start a day! Despite all of that, Mother Nature and Father Time are not very kind parents.
3. There is no "Fountain of Youth" for this old body
4. Jesus entered Jerusalem one day and he went near the sheep market
  - a. Nearby was the pool of Bethesda (house of mercy)
  - b. There were areas near the water and all manner of sick and disabled people waited there
  - c. They believed that when the water was disturbed, then the first one in would be healed of whatever malady he had

## **I. A SICK MAN – vs 1-5**

### **A. His Wretched Condition – vs 5**

**5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.**

1. He was A Disabled Man
  - a) *This man had lived with this infirmity for 38 years.*
  - b) *He had been sick longer than Jesus had been on the earth!*
2. He was A Desperate Man
  - a) *The very fact that he was here at this pool showed desperation*
  - b) *Imagine him dragging his broken body toward that pool.*
  - c) *Sadly, too few sinners are desperate about their spiritual condition*
  - d) *Please don't be guilty of presuming on tomorrow.*
  - e) *Time may just run out on you*

- (1) Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- (2) Pr 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

3. He was A Disappointed Man – vs 7

**7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.**

- a) *Every time he is about to get into the water, someone else beats him there and goes away with the healing instead.*
- b) *Year after year, he has seen his hopes and dreams shattered as another person beats him into the healing waters.*

**B. His Wretched Companions – vs 3**

**3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.**

1. This man was surrounded by others who were in the same shape
2. They offered him no comfort and they offered him no help.
3. They were as desperate as he was to be released from their prisons
4. Even if these people had been able to help this man get into the pool when the time came, I am sure that it would have been every man for himself!
5. They were not all sick alike, but they were all alike - sick.
6. What a picture of the lost world today
  - a) *These folks were helpless to do anything for themselves and the lost today are helpless to do anything to save themselves*
  - b) *They were impotent - weak, powerless and the lost are powerless to save themselves*
  - c) *There were blind people there - what a picture of the lost, blind to*

- their own dreadful condition - to their desperate need*
- d) *Halt - lame, crippled, unable to walk - the lost cannot walk in a way that pleases God*
- e) *Withered refers to hands that were crippled - the lost are not being able to do any good works that please God*

The Sick Man....

## **ii. A SYMPATHETIC MESSIAH – vs 6A**

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

- Jesus does three great works that prove He is the Sympathetic Savior

### **A. He Is Shown Choosing The Sinner**

1. There was a "great multitude" there that day.
2. Jesus could have gone to any person but He went only to this man
3. This is nothing but pure grace!
4. "All were equally needy, equally powerless to help themselves and here was the Great Physician, God himself incarnate, infinite in power, with inexhaustible resources at His disposal. He could have healed the entire company with a single word, but He didn't." - Pink
  - a) *There is nothing to indicate that this man was any different than any of the others*
  - b) *He did not look toward Jesus, knowing who He was, and beg to be healed. - he was as blind as the rest of them as to who Jesus was*
  - c) *And even after being healed, he "wist not" who it was*
  - d) *I praise the Lord for the day when He came to me!*
  - e) *He could have passed by and left me bound for Hell, but didn't*
  - f) *Thank God He stopped where I was, helpless and broken by sin and He reached out to me!*
5. The sinner is dead in sin until Jesus comes and awakens the heart

6. Then and only then can the sinner be saved!

## **B. He Is Shown Caring For The Sinner**

1. Jesus knew everything there was to know about this man!
  - a) *He knew that he was crippled, that he was unable to walk, that he was unable to stand and carry his own bed.*
  - b) *Jesus knew that this man was totally dependent upon others for everything he had in life.*
2. Jesus knows all about the condition of the sinner.
  - a) *He knows that we love our sins, that we cannot control our passions, that we desire the things of the world that gratify this old flesh, yet He loves us still!*
  - b) *Jesus looks beyond our faults and our failures and cares for us in spite of our sins.*
  - c) *Isn't it an awesome thought that Jesus knows every stinkin' thing we have ever done, yet He loves us?*
  - d) *That He knows all our evil thoughts yet He loves us?*
  - e) *That He knows we will fail over and over again as the years go by, yet He loves us?*

## **C. He Is Shown Coming To The Sinner**

- In what may be the greatest move of all, Jesus goes to where this poor man is lying and reaches out to him in genuine grace and love.
  - It is one thing for Jesus to love us in spite of our wickedness.
  - He didn't just love us, He came to where we are to save us
  - There are 3 ways in which Jesus comes to the sinner.
1. He Came As A Sacrifice
    - a) *The first time Jesus came, He came to die!*
    - b) *He went to Calvary and gave His life a ransom for sinners.*

c) *When He died on that cross, He took your sins upon Himself and paid the price for your redemption.*

## 2. He Comes As A Savior

a) *Today, when Jesus comes to the sinner, he comes as Savior.*

b) *He comes as One offering eternal life to all who will receive Him into their hearts and lives.*

c) *He desires to save you this morning*

d) *He knows all there is to know about you and your life, yet He still calls you to come unto Himself.*

e) *Respond in faith, He will not deny you salvation*

*Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

## 3. He Will Come As Sovereign

a) *One day, if the sinner doesn't respond to the Gospel message and come to Jesus, he will find himself facing Jesus as judge.*

b) *The same Jesus who has the power to save you today, will one day have the power to sentence you to the lake of fire*

c) *If Jesus is not received as Savior, He will be faced as Judge*

d) *Please do not presume upon the grace and goodness of God.*

## I. A Sick Man

## II. A Sympathetic Messiah

## III. A STRIKING MIRACLE – vs 6B-9

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 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.

### **A. There Is An Offer**

1. Jesus asks the man if he would like to be healed.
2. The man responds by appealing to the flesh and tells Jesus that he has no one to help him into the pool.
3. Jesus came to offer him physical healing from a spiritual source, but this man still has his eye on the what he can accomplish.
4. Even today, Jesus comes to the lost sinner and offers salvation.
  - a) *The common responses are, I am not good enough, I can't hold out, I have been too wicked, It won't work for me, etc.*
  - b) *The problem is that sinners are looking for a physical solution to a spiritual problem.*
  - c) *The sinner needs to be saved! That is something that no man can do for himself!*
  - d) *It takes the power of God, the conviction of the Spirit and the blood of Jesus to accomplish this for the sinner.*
  - e) *If Jesus is calling you to come to Him, then do not tarry, but obey and come to the Lord for salvation*

### **B. There Is An Order**

1. Jesus tells the man to get up and walk.
  - a) *Jesus just told this man to do something that he hasn't been able to do in 38 years, if ever.*
  - b) *To me, this is a pretty incredible command!*
  - c) *However, all that was required on the part of this man is simple, child like faith and obedience to the call of Jesus.*
2. When the call comes to the sinner lost in his sins, the only necessary response is faith!
  - a) *Jesus comes to men who have lived their entire lives in the grip of*

*sin.*

- b) He passes by and says, "Get out of the gutter and follow me!"*
- c) That is why it is so easy for little children to be saved.*
- d) They are used to depending on others for what they need.*
- e) However, adults are different. We are taught to stand on our own two feet. We need a dose of childishness in our lives*

### **c. There Is An Outpouring**

1. When this man responded to Jesus' command by faith, he was immediately healed and he was able to get up and walk.
2. This miracle required no input from the crippled man, all he had to do was get up and walk at the command of Christ.
3. Salvation works the exact same way.
  - a) Jesus comes to the sinner and calls him to salvation.*
  - b) All that is required of the sinner is humble obedience to the call of Jesus.*
  - c) All of this simply because the sinner turns to the Savior in pure, humble faith*
4. Jesus Christ has the power to take any life that is broken and ruined by sin and make it over again.
  - a) He is all-powerful, all-saving and awesome!*
  - b) He will lift you out of the affliction of your sins if you will only come to Him when He calls you*

Conclusion:

1. They were not all sick alike, but they were all alike in that they were sick. That is the way the human race is. We are not all sinners alike, but we are all alike in that we are sinners.
2. You might not think that you are too bad today, but without Christ ...
  - a. the religious and the rebellious are in trouble

- b. the professional and the prostitute are in danger of hell fire
  - c. the dignified and the drunkard are lost sinners
  - d. the church member and the Christ hater are the same in God's eyes
  - e. the wealthy socialite and the bankrupt addict – the educated elite and the ignorant fool all have different problems, but the same need.
3. 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.
- a. Sin had been the cause of this man's problem
  - b. Not everybody is sick because of sin, but this man was
  - c. We are sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, sinners by practice - the source of all spiritual disability is sin
  - d. People try to rename sin - "mistake, misjudgment, psychological maladjustment, glandular malfunction, disease"
  - e. Jesus saved this man there in the temple