

4.

in great misery and pain and poverty. It is really difficult to describe the scene with the porch full of people struggling and waiting for some sort of restoration or help. With anxiety they watch for the moving of the waters. This man was most miserable, in that he was thoroughly and (completely helpless) and unable to plunge into the stream. Thirty-eight years spent in despair. *IM 'PO-TEnt - wanting Power, strength or vigor - Deficient in Capacity.*

### III THE CURE

① Jesus saw him when he came up to Jerusalem. *V-6A*  
 He visited the place there with the great host of sick people, and (Jesus fasted His eyes) upon this particular sick one. His condition seemed (more deplorable) than all the rest, and Jesus delighted in (helping the helpless). We do not know if the man had been right by the pool for the thirty-eight years, but Jesus knew about his condition. Someone would ask (how Jesus knew)  
First of all, someone may have given him this information; this is a simple answer. Second, the Father may have revealed it to him; and

1.

John 5: 1-4

*"38 Years is a Long Time"*

Introduction:

John tells us the story of a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. We feel real sympathy for this man, for thirty-eight years is a long time to have been a cripple. When he first became ill, his friends brought flowers, and cheered him up. If he had died they would have attended his funeral. Now he had been sick for such a long time that many friends had died and others had foresaken and deserted him. He was now all alone in the world.

### I THE PLACE

① Where was it situated? *V-2A*

It was situated at Jerusalem, by the gates of the market where sheep were brought in and out, as described by Nehemiah.

Verse One - Through this gate sheep were brought to be sold. Many believed that this was the gate where sheep were lead to be sacrificed for a near-by palace or court of some kind.

2.

2. What was it? V. 2B.

It was a pool or pond known as Bethesda; the meaning of the word in verse two, is especially important in the study of this story because it means "House of Mercy". It was here that much of the mercy of God appeared to the sick and the diseased.

3. How did it look? V. 2C

It was of ancient origin and the Bible said that it had five porches on which lay the sick, so was no doubt covered to protect these sick and diseased from the rainy weather and hot sun.

4. Who was there? V. 3

It was visited by sick people, some of who were afflicted of blindness, lameness. There was a (great multitude) of these impotent folks. It would no doubt remind us of a visit to the hospital, where there are many folks diseased. The people here ever needed and wanted to help themselves, and had been waiting a long time with patience, for cure.

3.

5. What they waited for. V. 4

They were waiting for the angel of God, who came down and troubled the water. (This was a super natural event. It did not happen very often; only a certain season would the waters be troubled. All those who were (able to step) into the pool during this time, were reported to have been healed. (Angels) have always been God's servant and a friend to mankind. The angel descended not to disturb the water daily, but only a certain season. Some believe that it was during solemn feast.

## II THE PATIENT

V. 5 The man described here was a man who had been sick with this for thirty-eight years. It did not annoy him to be cripple, but it suffered for a duration would try one's patience; which reminds us to say here that it would be wonderful if people would look for (spiritual help) in the same way that this man seeks physical help. It would be wise for our souls to try and discover spiritual aid. He continues there day after day

8. is the same way in the conversion of sinners - the place when Jesus says, ("Turn and live".) The one thing he could not do was rise; and Christ always challenges us to do the impossible, but wants us to see what we can do by ourselves - Then through his willingness, with the help of Christ, he is made well, and picks his bed up and carries it.

(Paul) said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me."

Take up thy bed! He had new strength to lift his bed and carry it through the streets. Here, again Jesus asked him to do something that seems impossible for him to do, but Jesus knew what he was to do; for he wanted to move out of the way (every temptation). He had been dependent on the bed for years and thought it should be out of reach. It would have pulled him back to his old life.

v.9 He (did not discover it to be a load) but was able to carry his bed. He was able to pick up the bed and carry it on his shoulder, and to go and tell others about it.

5. third, Christ divine nature may have revealed this to his human nature in a manner we do not understand.

The scripture says that Jesus fixed his eyes upon him, knowing that he had been sick for a long time in this condition. This is a sentence that (should be remembered) by all those who have had to remain upon a bed of affliction for long weary months and years. He knows our needs and knew this man had been sick for years as a helpless wreck.

2. Jesus had a question for the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" A startling question, yet also a strange question, that he should ask a man who had been ill for such a long time; but Jesus said, "what can I do for you?" - "do you want to get well?" He is reviving in him dead hope and making way for him to exercise faith. In these words, Jesus wanted to know if he was willing to be made whole. Jesus did not force help upon men, but choose to help those people who are willing.

6.

He will not work against a man's will. There is nothing that Christ is more anxious to do, than to help those who have had repeated failures.

3.

The man admits his helpless situation. <sup>v.7</sup> He says, "I have no man to put me in the pool". He complains because of lack of friends. "No one to show me this kindness". (He is willing), but has no one to aid him. Every man had been for himself. He had not been able to precede fast enough. Someone had been always able to step in the pool in front of him. The man admits his hopeless situation. This sounds like the scripture - ("No man carrieth for my soul") So this man had been often disappointed. He was in despair and it was time for Christ to come in and help him.

4.

Jesus' Command

v.8

Jesus says, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." Jesus asked the question, "Do you want to get well?" He was confident that this man wanted to get well, but there are a lot of people

7.

today do not want to get well. (Leslie Weatherhead) made a visit to a woman in the hospital who did not want to get well. She said, "I do not mind being sick." It was really a means of escape. We know many people today who are (neurotic) and do not want to get well. We feel that this is in a persons mind, and this seems to be the sickest sick of all. Yet, we see how Jesus healed the man by the pool. (He simply asked, "Do you want to get well?") To ask the man "Do you want to get well?", and there was no hope would have been cruel. (Christ would not heal) this man unless he wanted to be healed. We must first have the desire. The man at the pool really wanted it.

We have known many people who have wasted their lives waiting for the right condition and the right time, but the time never seems to arrive. When you will, Jesus is ready.

He said, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." He told him to rise in this (strange command) to a disabled person. Yet, it was immediate power. It

12.

Lest a worst thing comest to thee; Christ knows  
the hearts of all men, and is familiar with temptation.  
Thirty-eight years was a long time to suffer. Jesus  
said that hell is much worst than thirty-eight years of  
lameness. This man could go and tell others that it  
was Jesus who had healed him.

"Sin no more, lest a worst thing come unto thee".

He was talking about a second death, a worst thing than  
spending the major portion of your life on earth, is to  
spend an eternity in the miseries of a second death.

9.

Also, when persons make a decision or  
resolution for Christ, one of the best things  
for him to do is to (go and tell someone) else  
about it. That is why we invite sinners to come  
forward and extend their hand. It is their way  
of taking up their beds. When you stand in  
strength of Christ, you do not have to be con-  
cerned about the possibility of falling. This  
person was cured, and Jesus told him to go to His  
house, for immediately he was made whole and rose  
up and walked away.

Jesus (often helps in a means and degree  
which we least expect)

#### IV SOME OBSERVATIONS

##### ①. Christ was unknown V.13

We will observe here that Christ was unknown  
to this man. He probably heard of the name of  
Jesus, but had never seen him and had never met  
him. He was not familiar with what divine mercy  
could do for him and did not have the will to be  
healed until Christ gave him the proposition.

X is unknown today

Sept-28, 1958-11AM-

10.

2. Proclaims Cure V. 9

He was trusted to (go home and tell) folks about it, for he (carried his bed) publically before men; he made his profession in obedience to Christ. He felt that the power of Christ word healed him and it was joy expressing himself to the world, and nothing was to hard in the name of Christ. This was public spiritual healing; he walked before men; he was cured of his lameness.

3. Found in Temple V. 14 A.

Did this man just disappear after being healed? The next place we see him in (public worship) He expected to met Christ again and get better acquainted with him; Jesus met him in the temple. He no doubt thanked God for his recovery. When God has restored us to health, we ought to attend services and praise him. The sooner the better.

4. This was Christ's action or service.

11.

Jesus told him to walk and this was the beginning of the service of Christ. He had (many critics) and so there were complaints that he had been healing on the (Sabbath day). There are many people today, still as critical, who stand off and complain. When a person supports his Church with presence, prayers, money, and service (he finds joy). There is real joy in Christian activity. The sickest people are those people who have nothing to do.

5. A Word of Caution V. 14 B.

Jesus speaks very wisely to this man who has been made whole and says to him, ("Sin no more"). This man had been sick because he was a sinner, but many of the others could not attribute illness to sin. He warned this man of the danger of returning to sin after he had been healed. "Sin no more", he warns. It seems as if this man had (felt the blow of sin) and had also (felt the mercy of God). This man began his new life in the temple. We suggest that today there are a multitude of people who in all illness make promises to God. When they recover they preform something, but after a while forget all Jesus' warnings of danger and return to sinful course.

The Word to Know — A Sick Man - Fear, Now get well —  
Decided to ask Dr. — hesitated — leaving Sick Room —  
Dr, I want to ask you a question.  
yes; he said what is it?  
Am I going to get well?

Dr. hesitated —  
"Don't treat me like a child. I have a right to know. Tell me —"  
"Well he said, you may recover this time but the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> attack  
is pretty sure to prove fatal."  
Sick man caught Dr. out. & said:  
"Dr I'm afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side?"

Curiosity — Dr. said "I don't know" —  
you don't know — you a Christian man, do not know  
what is on the other side?

The Dr. holding the handle of the door, on the other side  
came sounds of scratching & whining & as he opened  
the door a dog sprang into the room & leaped  
on him with every show of gladness.

Turning to the patient the Dr. said —  
"Did you notice that dog? He had never been in  
this room before. He did not know what was  
inside. He knew nothing except that his master  
was there & when the door opened he sprang  
in without fear."

I know little of what is on the other side  
of death, but I do know one thing I  
know my master is there & that is enough.

And when the door opens I shall pass  
through with no fear, but with gladness"  
Dog tails in his master — A lesson — He is  
going where his master is —