



JOURNEY with JESUS

Do You Want to Get Well?

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John 5:1-9

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Do you want to get well? A foolish question at first glance! Who wouldn't want to get well? This man had been paralyzed for 38 years and his presence at the pool would seem to indicate a desire to be healed. Jesus sought him out, he recognized his physical and spiritual needs and had compassion on him. He proceeded to ask the lame man a question “Do you want to be made well” but his question was misunderstood. Jesus's question, he thought was an offer for help to get in the pool. He did not realize that the source of healing, was not in the pool's water but rather He who stood before him, Jesus the giver of Living Water.

Although the man didn't ask for healing, Jesus challenged him to do three things: “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” This request on the surface looked impossible. The man was physically incapable of getting up on his own! But he had to make a choice. He could continue to live as a beggar, a life to which he became accustomed, or he could accept the unknown, new life Jesus offered. He took action and relied on Jesus's word and not the water in the pool. Immediately the man got up and was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. Jesus gave him a new beginning and through this miracle revealed some of who he was.

I recently watched the documentary *Wilma*. Wilma Rudolph was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, the 20th of 22 children. At the age of four she was diagnosed with polio which left her without the use of her left leg. The doctors told her mother that she would never walk again. Wilma proved them wrong! She did what appeared to be the impossible. With medical treatment, daily massages, and true grit she overcame the effects of polio and walked without braces when she was twelve years of age. In 1956 at the age of sixteen she won a bronze medal for track at the Melbourne Olympics. She also became the first black

woman to win three gold medals in track and field at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. Wilma dared to believe in the impossible and stepped out in faith!

Sometimes we find ourselves in challenging situations where solutions appear to be impossible. Jesus didn't *heal* every person lying around that pool; however, we can be assured that he *saw* every person gathered around that pool. Even when our challenges remain, God hears us, understands & provides the strength and comfort needed to help us.

Questions

- Suppose Jesus asked you if you wanted to be healed emotionally, physically or spiritually. How would you respond?
- Are you in a situation that appears to be impossible? If so, are you willing to look to Jesus for a resolution even if it means stepping out into the unknown?
- Do you allow God to be creative in how He answers your prayers?