

Willing or Wanting - *By: Brian Baer*

We travel to many churches all across this country. We meet many young preachers and new converts looking for direction on the best way to study their Bible or how to prepare a sermon. I try my best to encourage people who are thirsting for a deeper walk with God as they dig into His Word. Below is just one way that I study a passage of Scripture. The notes that I take on this passage will then lead to a sermon. I realize that I may not be the best one to tell you how study or prepare for a sermon or Sunday School lesson. I just hope that these notes on John 5:1-15 will be a blessing to you.

Verse 3

- This was the designated area for hurting people. Society did not know how to handle the hurting so they put them in their own area. (EX. - lepers had colonies; Jewish women with an issue of blood were not allowed in the temple.)
- Today the church should be warned not to be guilty of discrimination. Compassion is missing among the church.

ST. JOHN 5

945

CHAPTER 5

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 Be-thes'-da, 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, Will 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.

10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

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.

15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him,

because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

Verse 4

- All were waiting for a certain season (moving of the water). There are seasons in the kingdom of God (find Scripture - "pleasure in sin for a season"; Psalm 1:3 - "bringeth forth fruit in his season").
- Two points on seasons: if you hit your season (in the will of God), you will (1) multiply and bear fruit. The fruit of a Christian is another Christian. When was the last time you led someone to Christ? If it has been sometime since you have personally led someone to the Lord, you have (2) missed your season.

Illustrations on missing your season:

- When you hit your season it does not matter who is preaching, singing, testifying. If that person is in the will of God, then you will be blessed (multiply).
- However if you miss your season, you get upset when you are not called on to sing.
- You are jealous when other preachers are in the pulpit, thinking "I can preach better."
- If you don't get to testify, then you feel you haven't been to church.

- This is why there are so many "Sauls" trying to kill "Davids". When you hit your season, you learn to be content. But when you miss your season, you start picking up javelins and throwing them at anyone who has hit their season.
- King Saul started out as a goodly man, but died a bitter, jealous man because he missed his season. God said that Agag must die, but Saul kept the best of what God had cursed (tried to use the animals for sacrifice). It is impossible to worship God with the devil's property. When God says kill it all, it must die (possible new sermon to study).

Verse 5 - This man had missed his season 38 times. Probably had a form of cerebral palsy (look up basic info on cerebral palsy on Webmd.com or a medical dictionary). Basically his mind was telling his body to stand up, but his body was not willing to do what his mind wanted to do. He was having war in his members (Apostle Paul). (Find Scriptures - "House divided against itself" and "how can two walk together save they agree?") Resolutions that go amiss because of lack of willingness.

Verse 6 - Jesus saw and knew. (great point). There were many hurting people who needed healed, but Jesus saw HIM! I wonder how many people needed the Lord, the day I got saved? Jesus saw ME! Even though he knew my faults and failures, he saw ME! Was it a ridiculous question to ask the impotent man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" No, his mind was wanting to be whole, but his body was not willing. Many people have many wants: Want to be saved, want to be healed, want to read my Bible, want to pray more, want to attend church. However they are not willing. Their mind says to "go," but their body doesn't move. Jesus knew he wanted to be made whole, but Christ wanted to know if he was willing!

Verse 7 - Alibis are not new. They start at the beginning in the Garden of Eden and are present today. Basically the impotent man was saying, "It does not matter. It's not the right season. There's no angel. The water's not moving." It is no wonder our judicial systems are a mess. No one admits to being guilty. They push the blame onto others. Sinners need to realize in order to receive help from Jesus you have to admit guilt.

Verse 8 - Three things that his circumstance says were impossible. "Rise, take up thy bed and walk."

(call physical therapist for information on how long it takes to walk again after injury)

Therapist says: Takes two days to regain full strength after lying in bed for one day. If this man could have walked before he was brought to the pool, then it should have taken him 96 years of physical therapy to be able to walk again.

Verse 9 - Immediately! (what takes satan years to tear down, God restores in seconds) Took up his bed for two reasons - 1. Evidence that he was healed (people will know that you are saved) 2. He was telling the world, "I am not coming back!"

Verse 10 - The "religious" crowd was "straining a gnat and swallowing a camel." They only noticed the law being broken instead of the legs being healed.

Verse 14 - After he was touched the man went to church! There are legitimate REASONS why we cannot attend church regularly (ex. Work, sickness, death). However there is no EXCUSE not to be in church. (heard preacher say excuse was invalid reason for neglecting one's duty). People will come to an altar for help and then shout the victory. Then they will not darken a church door for three months. When they do come back they will come to the altar again to pray for the same need they had three months ago. This trend will keep up until they find some trivial reason to leave the church. They always wonder, "Why aren't my prayers answered?" Prayers will not be answered until church attendance is made a top priority! (Scriptures - "I was glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord." "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.")

Conclusion - Question is do you want to be made whole? Or are you willing to be made whole? God has given all a free will to choose death or life. Life comes by accepting Jesus as our personal Savior. He was willing to bear the burden of sin on the cross of Calvary to give us the freedom from sin. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." (Hebrews 11:6)