

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Introduction

We have been working our way through the Book of John. John gives us example after example to verify that Jesus is the long promised Messiah. He is writing to the Jews and thus far we have seen some indisputable evidence...but today our story intensifies. Jesus is going to have an encounter that completely changes those opposed to Him.

Prior to this moment, Jesus was tolerated as an eccentric teacher....perhaps Rabbi...who the Jewish leaders tolerated and probably thought He would go away if they just ignored Him.

So far Jesus has had a silent discussion with Nicodemus at night. Then He fled from Jerusalem and went to...of all places...Samaria....No rabbi does that. He met a Samaritan Woman at a well and started a Revival in Samria- Jews don't care about that....In fact, being received by Samaritans was like being endorsed by Nixon. He did a long distance healing of an official's son in Capernaum...way up in Galilee...but coincidences happen and Jesus wasn't physically there when the boy was healed.None of these events were any real threat to power in Jerusalem.

But now another feast has come and Jesus is back in Jerusalem. What happens next turns the entire religious establishment against Him. Not just to discredit Him but to destroy Him. It is here that the bloodhounds are released, the chase begins, the hunt is on....and Jesus becomes the prey.

What was the big deal that changed the course of History? Oddly it was not the healings....it was not the miracles...it was not teaching...It was WHEN those things were being done. The Jewish leaders could not control or discount the miracles so they instead clung to the gospel of their man made laws....They had defined the Sabbath...they had over 120 rules they had made and they enforced their ideas as if they were Scripture. Their power came from layering the burden of their ideas on the backs of people and claiming their ideas were equal with God's laws.

Jesus we will see....went to the pool at Bethesda and healed someone on the Sabbath. This first break of Sabbath law was a direct threat to all the religious leaders who controlled people by claiming they were speaking for God. John tells us very clearly in this passage what triggered the change in their attitude about Jesus. It is clear that they didn't seem to debate the Messiah stuff He was doing...teaching, prophesying, miraculously knowing the thoughts of others, and the healing miracles...They seem to ignore those things...But John tells us later in this chapter why they turned against him and began the long march to the Cross.

John 5:16 (ESV) 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

The clash with them was over the Sabbath Day; they never forgave Him for what He did on the Sabbath. . The miracle that our Lord performed here really put murder into their hearts. They hated Him because of the Sabbath and because He made Himself equal with God...and above them...

They hated the claims of Jesus regarding the Sabbath.

Mark 2:27–28 (ESV) 27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

But it really wasn't even that He did things on the Sabbath....note what Jesus claims...This is what really sets them off...Read this verse carefully. Jesus claimed to be LORD of the Sabbath....He claimed to be God...and they hated Him for it.

“Making himself equal with God” is a clear-cut claim to deity. I have heard the liberals say that the Bible does not teach the deity of Christ. I don't know what those men are talking about. I feel they are either woefully ignorant or they are absolutely dishonest. You may disagree with the Lord Jesus, and you may disagree with the Bible, but how can you put any other construction on these plain words, “making himself equal with God”? If that isn't claiming deity, then I do not know how a person would be able to claim deity.

In this 5th Chapter of John Jesus makes several claims of Deity.

John 5:19 (ESV) 19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Jesus is saying that He is God and He can do what God does.

John 5:20–21 (ESV) 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing, And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

Jesus imparts life, gives life, to whom He will. If the Father raises the dead, the Son will raise the dead.

John 5:22 (ESV) 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

A literal reading would be, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.” You can have everlasting life if you hear His word and believe it. Why? Because the Lord Jesus does what God does, because He raises the dead, and because He is going to judge all men someday. Whether saved or lost, they are going to appear before Him

Remember that the Lord Jesus did not come to judge the first time, but He will come as Judge the next time, and all judgment is committed to Him.

And Just in case the Religious Leaders were confused at all about Jesus' claims....He adds...

John 5:23 (ESV) 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

All can Worship Jesus because He is God. Those who don't honor Jesus dishonor God. And as a result of those claims...

Jesus gives life and raises the dead....Jesus has all Judgement...Jesus can receive all Worship...Jesus clearly tells them that He is God...but then He adds the summary truth of it all.

John 5:24 (ESV) 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

People say Jesus never claims to be God....and yet He does it all the time. The Religious leaders clearly understood what Jesus was saying and they started the process of killing Him for it.

They could not disagree with all that He was doing....so they attacked Him with their manmade gospel truths of WHEN He did it.

Let's look at this incredible moment in History.

John 5:1–2 (ESV) 1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.

The question arises as to which feast this is. It is probably the Passover. There are three great feasts of the Jews:

Deuteronomy 16:16–17 (ESV) 16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.

Three times a year...Every Jewish person who was able must make a trip to Jerusalem to observe appointed times with God...these were special days because God claimed them as such. Note that they never came to God's house with clinched fists. They were all to give as they were able...and everyone was able.

If Christians today followed that command, churches would never lack the financial resources for ministry. I think one of the greatest hindrances to the advancement of the Gospel is that God's people believe that giving to God is optional and you only give what is left over and comfortable for you. We are to ALL give according to the blessings of God. I would love to see what would happen at Remnant if we all actually contributed our share.

The Sheep Gate....The entrance to the city through the barrier walls of Nehemiah....and by that Gate was a pool. This is a very specific location. A first century Google like location pin.

The name of the pool was Bethesda which means “house of olives” or “house of mercy.” We are given another specific detail that actually caused a great deal of division among Christians and

skeptics. We were told that this pool had 5 porticos...or 5 patio like divisions. Today we would call them Colonades.

I am interested in Biblical Archaeology. Did you know that there has never been an archaeological finding that contradicts Scripture? Every time Scholar dig in the dirt of Israel they uncover truths already revealed in Scripture. So far and of course every time they discover new relics those relics are always consistent with Scripture.

But for years...this pool was the exception. French Archaeologists dug and found a pool by the Sheeps Gate but there was only one problem...the pool they found did not have 5 porticoes. So rather than dig deeper, they decided that the 5 porticoes were symbolic of the Torah the first 5 books of the Bible.

That pool was discovered in 1860 by a man name Charles Warren. He called it the Pool of Bethesda because it was next to the Sheep's Gate.

Many skeptics based on this discovery made a popular claim that the Bible contained error.

For 20 years or so the excavation of this area stopped.

There is also another problem. The area surrounding the site was given to France in 1856 by the Ottoman rulers in gratitude for France's aid during the Crimean War.

Fortunately, in 1880 the digging continued. They discovered a pool just North of the one Charles Warren's group had found and they fully excavated it. Want to guess what they found?

A large rectangular pool with a wall in the middle. Each edge of the rectangle had a portico and this central wall formed the fifth. It was a large pool with 5 porticoes.

It is not fully excavated today, but there is a lot to see there...[PHOTOS 1-3](#)

Only half of the southern pool has been excavated. Houses on three sides (all but the east) have made it difficult, if not impossible, to extend the excavations. Up until 1967 the French had planned a full excavation of their site...

However, since the SixDay War of 1967, Israel has claimed control of the site and will not allow French archaeologists to work there.

Why did we go through all of this? Because I want to remind all of us that these events in John are not just fanciful stories or parables...they are moments in History that occurred in very real places, by very real people, down to the smallest detail.

Ok..so what happened at this 5 portico pool?

John 5:3–5 (ESV) 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

Our attention is directed to one man here. Whether he had been at the pool all that time we do not know. We are told that he was infirm for thirty–eight years and that apparently he moved with difficulty. I would judge he was the worst case there. Think of how frustrating it was for this poor fellow! Even if he hadn’t been there for the thirty–eight years, he must have been there for several years.

He must have been much older than thirty–eight years, and his condition seems to have been the result of his own sin. In verse 14 the Lord Jesus said to him,

John 5:14 (ESV) 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

Did you notice that there is a problem with this verse? Look at it closely again...do you see it?

What happened to verse 4?

Verse 4 would have said....

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 [John 5:4].

The fourth verse of this chapter is not in the better manuscripts. It is left out of the ESV. To say this does not mean that I don’t believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. I want to assure you that I do believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. Why in the world do you think that I teach the entire Bible? But I do think we should heed scholarship—fundamental, conservative scholarship which suggests that because it is not in the better manuscripts, it was put in by a scribe as a word of explanation.

Perhaps this hope of healing was real, and God honored a release of faith. Or, it may be that this was merely a hopeful legend; nevertheless, a great multitude of sick people believed it. It is an unusual way of healing people...right? But God does unusual things sometimes.

As a doctor, I have been uniquely fascinated by the healing that God does throughout the Bible. There are many unusual occasions healing in the Bible: • The purified pot of stew (2 Kings 4:38–41) • The healing of Naaman by washing in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:10–14) • The healing of the man who touched the bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13:20–21) • Healing of those who have the shadow of Peter upon them (Acts 5:14–16) • The healing of those who have Paul’s handkerchiefs upon them (Acts 19:11–12)

God can and does do things in unexpected ways. But something isn’t necessarily from God simply because it is unexpected or unusual.

I personally feel that a great many cures took place there that were psychological cures. There are a number of people today, just as there were then, who are sick in their

minds, ignorant, and superstitious. There are quite a few who go to faith healers today who believe they get healed. There is always a question whether or not they were ever really sick. Another question is whether they stay permanently healed. My point is that the Lord Jesus Christ heals today just as He did at the pool of Bethesda, and that one is not healed by some moving of the water.

So people were all there praying for a miraculous healing....They thought it was the power of the moving waters that brought healing, but on this day....God was moving through the crowd. I want to pause here and think about this for a moment.

There was a multitude of people...all waiting for the miraculous...This was a Benny Hinn moment if I have ever seen one. Jesus could have set up a healing event...charged each person 50 Shekels...He could have musicians stir up the crowd...and He could have walked through all 5 porticos and healed every person with a head nod...People flopping everywhere and then jumping to their feet and leaving their crutches like toothpicks.

Did Jesus love every person in those 5 porticoes...Yes. Did He want to heal each and every person and alleviate their suffering...Yes. Did He have the power to heal all of those people...of course. Would such an event be known throughout Israel..yes. Would healing all of these people advance the Gospel? No. Because God chose not to do it and He always makes the correct decision. The Gospel will be advanced by the Healing of only one man in those porticoes.

Rather than waving His coat and slaying people all around the pool...Jesus steps over people..z"excuse me..sorry...just need to get through here...your crutch...can you move it? Thank you...Yes I am headed over to the other side....He walks past the crippled, He walks past the lame...He steps over the desperate, He hears their cries for help...for healing...But on this day, in this patio, it was the Father's will that only one man will be healed by Jesus.

The mission of Jesus will advance through the healing of one man who isn't even seeking Jesus or looking for Him....This man's story will be told for centuries and will bring millions to faith. Again, Jesus did not come here to solve the consequences of our sins or to make our experience on earth wrinkle free....He came to save people Spiritually. Physically sick or lame people who are healed of their physical issues will go to hell if they are not saved Spiritually. In fact, Jesus will warn this one man of that very possibility.

John 5:6 (ESV) 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?”

That’s a peculiar question to ask a sick man. It seems rather absurd, doesn’t it? Of course, he wanted to be made whole, but the Lord asked him the question for two reasons.

His question may seem rhetorical, but Jesus knew that not every sick person wants to be healed, and that some are so discouraged that they put away all hope. Jesus is dealing with a man who may have his heart withered as well as his legs. Jesus builds the faith of this man.

It is reasonable to wonder if this man really wanted to be healed. Many people use their disease or handicap for secondary gain- attention, money, sympathy, pity, and it is all that they have known for years. They have become comfortable in their dysfunction. Their handicaps may be horribly limiting but they can also be defining. Many are afraid of how they would cope without their handicaps. Their very identity has been grounded in their condition.

As bad as our current situation is, at least we are familiar with it. We know it. It won't surprise us. We can be more comfortable in our present misery than taking the steps we need to be free.

I think Jesus wanted to help this man find hope again. His case was hopeless, and I think the light of hope had pretty much gone out of his life, and he was in despair. Secondly, and this is the most important, Jesus wanted to get the man's eyes off the pool. Jesus wanted him to look to Him

I think this man had never noticed anybody else who came up there. He never watched anything else but just kept his eyes on the pool. So our Lord startled him with the question, “Do you earnestly desire to be made whole?”

I think the man normally and naturally would look up. Who would ask a question like that? I believe it was in that moment that this man finally took His eyes...his hope...his desperation...and his focus off of the waters of the pool and locked eyes with God.

John 5:7 (ESV) 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 going another steps down before me.”

The man's answer is basically, “Yes, I want to be made well, but I don't see how this can happen.” “Of course, I want to be made whole. But that's not my problem. What I need is somebody to put me in the water.”

Calvin speaks well of his response: “The sick man does what we nearly all do. He limits God's help to his own ideas and does not dare promise himself more that he conceives in his mind.”

J.B. Phillips wrote a famous book about this problem, titled Your God is too Small. For many of us, we create a small God in our heads, a God who is limited by whatever “box” we try to put God into.

Too often we do not see the miracles of God in our lives because we are too focused on the waters that we hope will stir, rather than the only One who can stir them. We stair at the waters of the Mayo Clinic hoping to join a new trail or a new treatment, not realizing that they only true healing that will come to us is Jesus.

I think Spiritual healing...salvation...comes when we stop looking for the world to stir up a miracle and instead turn to the true miracle that is Jesus. I tell people all the time, I don't know if Jesus is going to step over you on His way to heal someone else or if it is His will to heal your physical issues miraculously today...But what I do know, is that Jesus never steps over anyone Spiritually. Many in that portico watched Jesus perform a miraculous physical healing....but that moment was an invitation for all of them to be

Spiritually healed by their faith in Jesus....If everyone in that portico was healed physically, they likely would never have been there to be saved Spiritually.

What a sad story that tells. This poor, helpless, hopeless, homeless, lonely fellow is really saying, “Would I be made whole? Of course, I would. But I haven’t anybody to put me in the pool. Would You put me in the pool?” The Lord Jesus has no notion of getting that man into the pool. He is going to get him out of it and away from it. The minute the man gets his eye on the Lord Jesus, something will happen.

John 5:8–9 (ESV) 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

He told him to rise (get up), take up his bed, and walk. He was to give up his place there at the pool to somebody else. He’s to take his bed because no arrangements will be made for a relapse. There isn’t going to be any relapse!

In this miracle, Jesus does it all. In this case, He could not say to this man what He said on some other occasions: your faith has made you whole (Matthew 9:22), because Jesus took the initiative. This shows us that the New Testament describes many different ways people may be healed.

The elders of the church can anoint someone with oil, pray for them, and they may be healed (James 5:14–16).

God’s people can lay hands on each other in prayer, ask God for healing, and people may be healed (Mark 16:17–18).

God may grant someone a gift of healing—either that they are directly healed, or have the power to minister healing to another (1 Corinthians 12:9).

God may grant healing in response to the faith of the person who desires to be healed (Matthew 9:22).

God may grant healing in response to the faith of another on behalf of the person who is healed (Mark 2:4–5, Matthew 8:13).

God may heal through medical treatment (1 Timothy 5:23, James 5:14 with Luke 10:34)

But on this day....at the Pool of Bethesda.... none of these methods involving human participation are used. God Himself...Jesus did everything...remember this man had no faith...He wasn't looking for Jesus...we will see even after he is healed, he doesn't know who did it. Sometimes God just sovereignly heals. He takes the initiative, He does the work...It is His sovereign will...He will do what needs to happen to advance the gospel and bring those who surrender into His family for all of eternity

John 5:9–10 (ESV) 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.”

The next thing that happens is that the enemies accuse the man of carrying his bed on the Sabbath Day. Well, that was the proof that he was healed. Can you imagine how ridiculous these religious rulers were to be upset because he carried his bed on the Sabbath Day? Notice they didn't mention the miracle, they didn't mention that he was up dancing and walking and skipping...all they cared about was that this man was violating THEIR laws about the Sabbath.

Carrying a bed (actually a sleeping-mat or a bedroll) was in fact a violation of the rabbis' interpretation of the commandment against doing work or business on the Sabbath. It was not a breaking of God's law of the Sabbath, but the human interpretation of God's law. Unfortunately, it still happens today in many Orthodox synagogues.

An April, 1992 news item: Tenants let three apartments in an Orthodox neighborhood in Israel burn to the ground while they asked a rabbi whether a telephone call to the fire department on the Sabbath would violate Jewish law. Observant Jews are forbidden to use the phone on the Sabbath, because doing so would break an electrical current, which is considered a form of work. In the half-hour it took the rabbi to decide “yes,” the fire spread to two neighboring apartments.

The absolute devotion to the traditions of man surrounding the Sabbath can't be understated. For example, Deuteronomy 23:12–14 tells Israel to practice good sanitation when their armies are camped. Ancient rabbis applied the same principle to the city of Jerusalem, which they regarded as “the camp of the Lord.” When this was combined with Sabbath travel restrictions, it resulted in a prohibition against going to the bathroom on the Sabbath.

The Jewish leaders didn't want to know who healed the crippled man. They wanted to know who told him to carry a bedroll on the Sabbath day.

John 5:11–13 (ESV) 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and

walk'?" 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

Notice that the Normal response to the man's statement should have been..."You were healed? Amazing!" but instead they don't even mention the miracle...They are concerned about who overstepped their authority and told him he could take up his bed on the sabbath and walk.

John 5:14 (ESV) 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

What actually happened was simply this: the Lord healed him physically at the pool of Bethesda, but He healed his soul there in the temple. Sin had caused the man's trouble. First he got a well body, and then he got a well soul.

Jesus found him because He was concerned for his spiritual health (sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you), not just his physical health. Living a life of sin is worse, and will bring a worse result, than being crippled for thirty-eight years.

John 5:15–17 (ESV) 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

This is the incident that put those bloodhounds of hate on the trail of Jesus. (When John says the "Jews," he is actually referring to the religious rulers of the Jews.) This is the point at which they began to persecute Jesus and sought to slay Him.

When that man got down into the ditch of sin, the Lord Jesus and the Father could no longer rest on the Sabbath Day. Although God rested after the creation of the physical universe, after the fall of man He didn't rest, because man, like an ox, had gotten down into the ditch.

In our terminology, Jesus would say: "My Father works on the Sabbath, and so do I." By this Jesus makes it clear that He is equal to God the Father, and reminds us that God doesn't take holidays.

this statement written in an anti-Christian tract: Just say "no!" to a god who claims to be all powerful, but then requires a nap after only six days of creating (Genesis 2:2). This objection betrays the lack of understanding on behalf of the writer. The Bible clearly says that God does not need sleep or rest (Psalm 121:3–4, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep). The rest of God on the seventh day was given for man's benefit, not God's, demonstrating a pattern of rest necessary for man's well being.

This bold claim to deity was not missed by the enemies of Jesus. They knew clearly that when Jesus said that God was His Father in this unique way, He declared Himself equal with God.

Closing

So once again.....where are we in this story?

So many of us have been staring at various things waiting for God to do something. Too many of us don't believe God will actually do the miraculous in our lives. This man had been in physical and spiritual bondage for 38 years. He had probably been staring at the same thing day after day....month after month and year after year. He had turned his eyes away from God and was staring at his answers to his problem. He was focused on himself...not believing that God could do what he had never seen and truthfully had given up on.

This man was impotent...not sexually but spiritually. He has been sitting....waiting...looking at the pool....looking for help from others...many excuses for his condition...actually living in the consequences of his sin....He is completely unaware of his spiritual need. But then this impotent man meets the omnipotent One. God came to Him when he wasn't looking for God. He had probably given up on God but God had not given up on him.

The thing that is amazing to me is that there were multitudes left in those porches and they were not healed. Today there are multitudes who are not saved. Isn't Jesus willing to save them? Yes, but they haven't looked at Jesus. They're just waiting, waiting for something to happen.

So many in our neighborhoods, schools, families and work place are just like this man. They know they have an emptiness and they are trying to fill it with different waters that they can stare at. Waiting for someone else to solve their problem...believing that if they are happy, popular, or rich that they will be complete. But Jesus teaches us....

Matthew 16:25–26 (ESV) 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

He believed the hype. This miracle he was seeking, He thought could only occur based on his actions at the right time. His faith was in the physical yet his need was spiritual.

Our world often tempts us to stare at the waters with incredible promises...

Then there are some people today who are looking to some individual. They've heard of the experience of someone else, and they are waiting for something like that to happen in their lives. But they are doomed to bitter disappointment. I've talked to many of these people. They come under all of these categories. They are all waiting with their eyes fixed on some thing. Unfortunately, they have their eyes fixed on the wrong thing, or the wrong individual, or the wrong happening.

Some believe that they need a miracle in their financial situation. They spend years staring at the stock market, or the Joneses, or their debt or their bank accounts or their lottery tickets They become stingy not generous. They believe what the world has promised them that money is the key to happiness. So they stare at this false God and don't realize their need is spiritual. God is waiting for them to get their eyes off of money and on to Him.

Some believe that they need a miracle in their health. They spend hours with Dr Google, staring at their medical records, looking at online answers, putting their faith in a certain medical center or doctor, They seek opinions of friends, They need healing but in their minds the healing that they need is physical. Yet Jesus teaches us that He is the great Physician. He is the only one who can bring complete healing. He calls us to put down the mouse, leave Dr Google, Seek the best care and then look to God for the healing. Jesus teaches what will it help a man if he gains the world and yet forfeits his soul?

Some come to church each week waiting for some great sweeping emotion to engulf them. Many have postponed a decision for Christ because they are waiting for God to stir up an emotion. They stare at the church and look for something to happen. They want God to reveal something emotional to them and yet He has already revealed truth. They are waiting on a response from Him and He is looking for their step of faith.

Some believe that they need a miracle in their relationships. They are waiting for God to change their spouse....to bring them a spouse....to change their kids. They spend their days waiting for God to do something and yet they haven't been abiding in Christ, praying or surrendering the situation to Him. Many know that the change needed starts with them, but they would rather sit by and wait.

Some believe that discipleship happens by osmosis. Just being at church with make you like Jesus. Rather than praying , abiding, tithing, studying, and surrendering, they just wait for God to stir that desire up in them. They are focused on experiencing the physical and yet miss the Spiritual.

Some are staring at their social media presence. They are taking selfies and are glued to the algo rhythm. They long for the approval and appluse of others. But they can't take their eyes off of themselves long enough to see that only the opinion of Jesus matters.

Some are gloating in their poverty or their riches. They get comfortable with either and their identity become defined. They are actually afraid to change because they have been this way for 38 years. God wants to do the miraculous, but they don't trust and trun to Him. They get comfortable in their sins and don't want to change.

Satan has given us numerous waters to stare at and place our hope in. We come day by day and do the same things over and over. We wonder why God isn't fixing our problem...when He is right next to us trying to get us to focus on the real issue. The Spiritual condition of our soul.

I'll ask you a question. Are you waiting for something to happen? If you tell me what it is, I could write your biography. We need to learn our lesson from the followers in Thessalonias. God praised them for turning from their idols and becoming spiritually healed.

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (ESV) 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

It is like we are in a huge chess game called life. It is our move but we don't make it. We get comfortable in our dysfunction because it is all that we have known. We begin to believe that God doesn't really do miracles anymore....and for sure not for you. Jesus said.

James 4:2–10 (ESV) 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ... Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

If you want to see the miraculous of God in your situation....Humble yourself...surrender your opinion, your answers, your control and turn everything over to Jesus. Stop focusing on bank accounts, medical reports, relationship self help books, social media answers, public opinion, and your own power. Turn it all over to Jesus...Focus on making sure that you are Spiritually well before you worry about being physically well or well off.

Jesus asked a very pointed question to this man....and He asks it to all of us....

Do you want to keep staring at your solution...your waters...hoping something will one day happen? Or Do you want to be Healed?

He tells us to turn our eyes to Him....

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

So you really want to be healed? Spiritually? Let's Pray