

THE OPENING:

- YOU MIGHT LIKE TO GET A LOT OF THINGS DONE BEFORE THE WEEK IS OVER, BUT LET'S NOT BE SO FOCUSED ON THE DAILY AGENDA THAT WE MISS OUT ON GIVING GOD PERMISSION TO DO MORE.
- TAKE MOSES FOR EXAMPLE, HE IS OFTEN KNOWN AS THE LEADER WHO GOT UPSET AT HIS FOLLOWERS, AND FOR BEING THE ONE WHOM GOD ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO REMOVE FROM A POSITION OF INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, WHAT WE FAIL TO RECOGNIZE IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WANTED MOSES TO STAND IN PLACE OF GOD, BECAUSE THEY WERE GENUINELY AFRAID OF HIM [EXODUS 20:18-19]. IN OTHER WORDS, MOSES WOULD BE KNOWN FOR HAVING POWER LIKE GOD & THE PEOPLE WOULD LOOK TO HIM MORE THAN THEY SHOULD. [NUMB.20:12]
- AND IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, WE MIGHT BE KNOWN FOR ALL THAT WE CAN DO, AND STILL MISS OUT ON THAT WHICH GOD IS WILLING TO DO.
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE WE'LL LOOK AT A MAN WHO RECEIVED HEALING FROM JESUS AFTER BEING SICK FOR AT LEAST 38 YEARS. AND SINCE GOD IS STILL IN THE HEALING BUSINESS, HOW MIGHT WE VIEW SICKNESS TODAY?
- IS SICKNESS ONLY CONFINED TO YOU AS A PERSON? NO!
- WHAT IF SICKNESS IMPACTS A WHOLE GROUP OF PEOPLE? ARE YOU READY, WILLING, AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO IT BEFORE IT DOES FURTHER HARM? YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAY YES, BUT HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF IT'S MORE THAN JUST YOUR AVERAGE, OR COMMON COLD? HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF IT'S TEMPORARY, OR MORE SEVERE? AND WHAT IF YOU & ME ARE NOT SICK, THEN IS A MESSAGE ON HEALING EVEN NECESSARY?

THE MAIN POINT:

- SICKNESS COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS. IT AFFECTS OUR WHOLE LIVES – BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT – AND CAN MANIFEST ITSELF IN WAYS THAT IMPACTS OUR FINANCES; OUR PHYSICAL BODIES; OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH; & THE WAY WE LIVE, INTERACT SOCIALLY/ENVIRONMENTALLY.

SICKNESS/DISEASES OF ALL KINDS PLAGUE SOCIETY – WHICH ONE AFFECTS YOU?

- ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMY? ALTHOUGH WE’VE NOT YET SEEN THE END OF THIS CURRENT PANDEMIC, WE KNOW THAT COVID-19 HAS GREATLY AFFECTED BOTH THE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, PANDEMICS HAVE A TOTAL ECONOMIC COST OF \$570 BILLION ANNUALLY - .07% OF TOTAL WORLD INCOME.
- ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POVERTY? SICKNESS HAS BEEN SHOWN TO LEAD TO POVERTY (2013 BLOG, [HTTPS://BORGENPROJECT.ORG](https://borgenproject.org))
- DRUG & ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY; PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS; INJUSTICE; DISCRIMINATION; PORNOGRAPHY; ABUSE; NEGLECT; AND CRIME, ETC.

THE TEXT: READ JOHN 5:1-18

- **(6)** WHEN JESUS SAW HIM...HE ASKED - **“WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET WELL?”**
- **(7)** **“I CAN’T, SIR,”** THE SICK MAN SAID, **“FOR I HAVE NO ONE TO PUT ME INTO THE POOL WHEN THE WATER BUBBLES UP. SOMEONE ELSE ALWAYS GETS THERE AHEAD OF ME.”**
- LET’S NOT BE LIKE THIS MAN WHO SPENT 38 YEARS SICK, AND WHEN HIS TIME CAME TO BE HEALED, HE CHOSE TO GIVE 3 REASONS AGAINST IT.
- **Q:** IN WHAT WAY WOULD YOU LIKE GOD TO HELP YOU RECEIVE HEALING?
- WHAT’S INTERESTING IS THAT JESUS SAW PAST THE MAN’S REASONS FOR NOT ACCEPTING HEALING & RECOGNIZED IT WAS AN ISSUE OF FAITH; IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAN WAS MERELY BLINDED BY THE MANY OBSTACLES WITHIN HIS PAST & WASN’T ABLE TO SEE THE ONE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY HE WAS BEING GIVEN TO STEP INTO HIS FUTURE DESTINY OF LIVING FREE.
- **Q:** IS SICKNESS, SOMETHING GOD WANTS YOU TO RESPOND TO WITH HIS HELP, OR IS IT SOMETHING GOD HIMSELF NEEDS TO ADDRESS IN YOU?
- **JESUS IS THE ANSWER** – WE ALL NEED GOD TO BRING CORRECTION TO US.
- **(8)** JESUS TOLD HIM, STAND-UP, PICK-UP YOUR MAT, AND WALK **REFUSE TO STAY THE SAME; RECLAIM YOUR LIFE; RUN YOUR RACE**
- **(9)** HE ROLLED UP HIS SLEEPING MAT AND BEGAN WALKING **INSTANTLY THE MAN WAS HEALED [EVERYTHING CHANGED]**
- **(10)** HE WAS THEN TOLD; THE LAW DOESN’T ALLOW HIM TO... **TRADITION PREVENTS YOU FROM DOING MORE THAN WHAT’S EXPECTED**

WE KNOW THAT GOD IS A HEALER, BUT LET'S NOT IGNORE THE ROLE WE PLAY:

- **Q:** IS THERE SOMETHING GOD WANTS YOU TO BE DOING, BUT YOU ARE NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE ALLOWING THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF OTHERS TO STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT GOD HAS SO CLEARLY DONE/SAID?

FAITH REQUIRES EACH OF US TO **TAKE THE NEXT STEP**. HERE'S ONE:

- DO LESS OF THOSE THINGS THAT ARE NOT HONORING GOD AND HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW, LOVE, SERVE, AND WORSHIP JESUS AS LORD & SAVIOR.

WALKING IS THE BEGINNING OF RUNNING WHICH IS A GREAT **KEY TO WINNING**:

- IF WE DON'T CHOOSE TO STAND-UP AND PICK-UP OUR MAT WITH THE HELP OF THE LORD, THEN OTHER PEOPLE LOOKING TO US WON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPERIENCE & ENJOY THE GLORY OF OUR KING & HIS KINGDOM.

THE CLOSING:

- NOT EVERYONE IS READY FOR THEIR MIRACLE, BUT IF YOU WILL TAKE ACTION ON GOD'S WORD TODAY, YOU WILL BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE ONE.
- SINCE JESUS WAS WILLING TO HELP THE MAN WITH HIS LONG-TERM SICKNESS, LET'S ALLOW HIM TO SPEAK AND CORRECT OUR OWN ISSUES.
- I BELIEVE THAT GOD IS TIRED OF WATCHING YOU AND I STRUGGLE TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND HE WANTS TO STEP INTO OUR DAILY ROUTINES AND HELP US. WILL YOU LET HIM?
- CAN YOU SEE THE VARIOUS OBSTACLES THAT ARE HINDERING YOU AND OTHERS WITHIN YOUR LIFE FROM LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
- GOD SEES YOU AS WORTHY OF HIS HELP, WILL YOU LET HIM GIVE YOU A NEW PERSPECTIVE OF YOUR SITUATION AND THE POWER YOU NEED TO HELP RE-CLAIM YOUR POSITION WITHIN HIS ROYAL FAMILY?
- I'M HERE TO NOT ONLY REMIND YOU THAT GOD IS WILLING TO BRING YOU HELP, BUT TO HELP YOU SEE THAT HE IS COMPLETELY ABLE TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE.
- LET GOD SPEAK TO YOU. I PROMISE THAT HE'LL TAKE YOU FROM WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW & WILL GIVE YOU A MORE EXCITING LIFE WITH HIM.
- HOW WE'RE SEEN IN THE EYES OF GOD SHOULD DETERMINE HOW WE LIVE