

Healing is a Choice

John 5: 1-10

June 3, 2007

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. Crowds of sick people-blind, lame, or paralyzed-lay on the porches. One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew how long he had been ill, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?" "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get there, someone else always gets in ahead of me." Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your sleeping mat, and walk!" Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up the mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath day. John chapter 5, verses 1-9

1. Healing is God's Choice.

Crowds of sick people-blind, lame, or paralyzed-lay on the porches.

John chapter 5, verse 3

- Jesus did not heal every person but he loved every person.
- God's healing accomplishes His purposes first.
- Never stop asking God to heal you!

O LORD, what great miracles you do! And how deep are your thoughts.

Psalm chapter 92, verse 5

2. Healing is my choice... to embrace reality.

"One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years." John chapter 5, verse 5

Refusing to embrace my circumstances:

- ✓ We ignore the issues hoping they will go away.
- ✓ We rationalize why we can't confront our reality.
- ✓ We're afraid of the work involved in dealing with our reality.
- ✓ We wear fake smiles and speak fake words to hide from people.

Willing to embrace my circumstances:

- ✓ We accept our circumstances (good or bad) as from God.
- ✓ We mourn the past but move forward.
- ✓ We even trust God with our mistakes.
- ✓ We're determined to follow God even if the reality does not change.

3. Healing is my choice... to deal with my greatest need.

Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Take heart, son! Your sins are forgiven." Matthew chapter 9, verse 2

- Every time Jesus healed someone physically he healed them spiritually.

- All healing is heart related.
- God knows our greatest need even if we don't.
- It is much better to be healed spiritually than physically.
- No matter what happens to the physical my spiritual life can never be taken away.

4. Healing is my choice... to embrace God's ability.

Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your sleeping mat, and walk!" Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up the mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath day.

John chapter 5, verses 8-9

Ability always demands responsibility.

- ❖ To exercise my faith
- ❖ To put what I have been given on display.
- ❖ To use what I have been given so that others can experience the same. – SERVE

5. Healing is my choice... to be free.

So the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! It's illegal to carry that sleeping mat!"

John chapter 5, verse 10

Go back to living in bondage.

But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you."

John chapter 5, verse 14.

Never give up your opportunity to be free.

Some information from today's talk was taken from:

- ✓ Healing is a Choice- Steve Arterburn
- ✓ How Can It Be All Right When Everything is All Wrong- Lewis B. Smedes

Next Week: Healing is a Choice- *The Faith Factor*

