

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

July 22, 2020

### John 5: 7 - 16

**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.

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Pastor Tom reviewed quickly from last week when he asked us if we thought the crippled man knew who Jesus was.

Then he asked if people really want to be made spiritually whole. When given a choice it is likely that people will prefer the sickness of sin over the wholeness of God's way. And because death is a part of life, do we really want to be made whole ... do we want to do what it takes to get to heaven?

### Verse 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."*

\*The crippled man called Jesus 'sir' probably out of respect more than because of Jesus' deity. For 38 years this man waited by the pool for someone to help

him get to the water when it stirred. But someone always gets ahead of him, bets him to the punch. He needs help/ assistance.

(Pastor Tom used this illustration- He wanted to help his friend who was dying. He planned to visit him on Friday, however, sadly the man passed away on Tuesday. Lesson learned: don't let an opportunity to help someone pass you by. There have been times in our lives when we know we needed to do something for someone, but then the opportunity slips away. Be mindful to listen to the Holy Spirit's nudging to act in a timely manner)

\*Also, think about the difference between being alone and being lonely. This crippled man was so lonely, there was nothing left for him in his condition.

### **Verse 8**

*“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”*

\*So no angel appeared and no water stirred but there was the spoken word of Jesus. That's all... no mud no cleansing as in other miracles, just Jesus' words. This takes us back to creation when God spoke and the world was made - just on the spoken word of God!

\*Now we have the privilege of having the WORD in the Bible. It is the anointed, spoken word of God, ordained by Him before creation. It is God speaking to us directly. And note: God rarely speaks in chaos or confusion. He speaks to the heart more often than the ears.

### **Verse 9**

*“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”*

\*This was an instant healing for the man. One minute he's crippled, the next minute he's able to walk and carry his bedroll.

\*Some things to remember about healings in church:

Some are immediate/instant

Some take place over time

All physical healings are temporary because we will all die someday.

Even this man beside the pool would eventually die.

\*We still wonder about the actual rejuvenation of the muscles and tissues that allowed the man to walk and carry....and on the Sabbath!

\*This verse puts Jesus in trouble with the religious leaders. No surprise to Jesus though...He probably knew this would happen even before it happened.

\*Jews will call out Jesus for healing on the Sabbath but first....

### **Verse 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.”*

\*The Jewish religious leaders picked right up on the man carrying his bedroll on the Sabbath rather than rejoicing that he was healed! They took the joy out of the event for the sake of tradition.

??\*What’s more important - tradition or the one who made the world?

\*We can be so stuck on traditions that we aren’t open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. God has to change our course of direction at times to remind us of this.

\*Pastor Tom reminded us of our discussion a couple weeks ago about rest (on the Sabbath) He opened our phones to get input about how we used to spend Sundays when we were younger...things we did or didn’t do on Sunday with our families.

\*Conclusion: It’s easy to become so self-righteous in thought that we are not open to the Holy Spirit and what He nudges us to do on the Sabbath.

### **Verse 11**

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

\* The man related to the religious Jews his perspective of his healing...he told me to get up and I did. There had to have been a little faith in there somewhere to be obedient to Jesus, even if the man did not recognize who he was.

\*Now the religious Jews are in a pickle. In their belief system only God could do what was done - healing a man. If Jesus did this, he must be God or an imposter. Either way, Jesus is a threat to them and their position of power. Fear

of losing that power and jealously that someone could do a better job than them drives their attitudes and actions.

\*The Law, written in the Old Testament, from Genesis 3 through the book of Malachi, and studied by the religious leaders, speaks of the Messiah and now here he is in front of them. They had the same choices as we do today - to accept or reject Jesus and Lord and Savior.

### **Verse 12**

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

\*Jewish leaders are questioning the man so they know exactly who healed on the Sabbath by name.

### **Verse 13**

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

\*The man could not point him out to the Jews. He had no idea who Jesus was (like the woman at the well) . Jesus got away/disappeared/ blended into the crowd.

\*At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus said it was not yet his time. This was not his time either...His time will be on the cross.

\*Because Jesus looked like everyone else and did not draw attention to himself, he could walk straight through without anyone knowing who he was.

### **Verse 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.*

\*Jesus went looking for the man and found him at the temple...the man knew that something had happened to him so he went to church. Jesus reminded him that he was made whole physically but also that he should sin no more (becoming whole spiritually) or something worse will happen to him.

Discussion was opened up as to what that something worse could be:

Some thought it could be hell. Some thought it was another kind of sickness. Or Jesus could be using this as a wake up call of sorts - don't forget the healing and

don't go back to old ways of thinking and acting. Pastor Tom added - God has done something. A person has "turned around" experience, filled with excitement and on fire, but as time goes on, the fire turns to coals and coals to ashes resulting in being miserable. Remember - to whom much is given, much is required. Don't forget what God has done for you. So this is with our country - we are reaping the results of going away from God, which is known as sin.

\*Rev. Clayton Harriger, a retired UMC minister who often sends editorials to Tribune. Recently he noted in one of his writings that the US has moved away from God 3 times ... taking prayer out of schools, abortion rights, and same-sex marriages. John McArthur feels we may be fitting into the final days but the question has always been when will the last days occur. Of course, no one knows this but the signs are beginning to come. 'In the last days there will be a falling away but there will also a revival will come'

Reminded Pastor Tom of old hymn - "When the Roll is called up yonder, I'll be there"

### **Verse 15**

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

\*Finally, the man named Jesus...

### **Verse 16**

*"And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day."*

\*...and the Jewish religious leaders began their persecution and planned to kill him.

Hatred begins, jealousy intensifies. They plot to get rid of Jesus

\*Pastor Tom believes there is an effort through this COVID crisis to attack the church. The devil knows his time is short and is going after as many people as possible.

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*May the Lord watch between me and thee,*

*While we are absent one from the other.*