

**Last week, we studied about the helpless (a picture of the sinner) and their hope in Jesus Christ. This week, we continue the story of the impotent man at Bethesda and power of Jesus Christ.**

# There is Power

*John 5:1-15*

## 1. There is Power in the Way Jesus Sees.

- † v. 6 - "When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?"
- † Jesus knows everything. He knew the man was a cripple.
- † Don't cover it up...don't kid yourself. Jesus knows we are crippled by sin. It is easy to see the outside, but it takes power to see the inside! Jesus can see the inside, what you are thinking and feeling.
- † John 2:23-25 - "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."
- † Here's a group who wants to follow the Lord, but Jesus doesn't commit Himself to them. They believed in Jesus, but Jesus did not believe in them. Why not? Because He looked inside their hearts and saw that they were only following Him because of the miracles that He did! They weren't ready to commit for real. They were seeking the sensational and their own desires. "Believe" and "commit" are synonymous in Bible terms.
- † Warren Wiersbe calls these in our text 'unsaved believers.'
- † It's one thing to respond to a miracle, and another thing to believe on Jesus Christ as your Lord and SAVIOR! These were 'miracle mongers', with no commitment.
- † America is full of churches with unsaved believers!

### Remember the parable of the sower?

- † Only 25% of the seed 'took'. The other 75% were stirred, but they had no depth of earth. Jesus could see right through them!
- † But Jesus is longsuffering. He knows some of us just need time to grow. Peter denied Christ, but Jesus later used him greatly to preach the gospel! I thank God for that period of grace, as God works on us, to make us who we are supposed to be. We should have patience with one another through those times as well.
- † If you don't let God work on you, you end up an old, gray-headed baby, spiritually.
- † God sees me not for who I am, but for my potential. He doesn't throw the clay away. He continues molding and shaping. When God saved you He didn't just see you as the filthy sinner you 'were', He saw the 'what you would become!'
- † So, when someone doesn't like who you are, ask them to be patient, because God's not finished with you yet!

### Jesus has the Power of Seeing the real "you"!

- † Jesus saw inside of Nathaniel - "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1:47)
- † He saw the heart of the woman at the well. She looked "unfit and unclean" on the outside, but Jesus saw a person that could carry the good news of Christ to her village! We can't see the heart! But Jesus can!
- † We have a Savior who sees!
- † Jesus knew in advance that Judas would betray Him. (John 6:64)
- † Jesus told an adulteress, "Go and sin no more?" How could Jesus let this adulteress off the hook so easily? He saw her heart, that she was sincerely repentant! (John 8:10-11)
- † Only God sees the heart! We can make the outside look pretty good. Imagine if we put that much effort into the inside! Let's quit pretending to be something we are not. Let's be honest with ourselves, with others, and with God, who sees! Jesus sees inside, knows your problems, and the solutions. He knows your condition AND your cure! You may be dumb as a box of rocks, but Jesus knows if you are sincere! If your heart is right, Jesus knows!

## 2. There is Power in the Way Jesus Searches.

† 6b - "Wilt thou be made whole?"

† Seems like a ridiculous question. But fact is, some folks don't want to get well. Some don't know they are sick. Some do and yet don't care! Physically, some always WANT to be sick.

**Andy Griffith said of old Miss Emma Watson:** "She's been enjoying poor health for years." It is the attention, the self pity. Ask them how they are doing and get ready to listen for a while! In America today I think there are many who, if Jesus approached them would say, "Don't heal me...I'm drawing disability!"

### Some simply don't want to get saved.

† In some cases they have grown comfortable with themselves and don't want change. They've been upside down so long they don't want to be right side up! If you are messed up spiritually and don't want to change, you don't know what you're missing.

† "Will you be made whole?"

† You have a free will. God may 'move' you, but He won't 'mug' you! He respects your free will so much that He not only will allow you to follow sin, He'll allow you to follow it all the way to hell if you choose. The Messiah is walking by where you are today. He is looking for you! He knows your condition! He died for your sin! He took your guilt and offense upon his own body, and He asks you, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

† What will your answer be?

## 3. There is Power in Way Jesus Speaks

† v. 8 - "Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."

† He is told to rise and walk; a strange command to be given to an impotent man, that had been long disabled; but this divine word had divine power. It was a command to the disease to be gone, and his body to be strong. But it was also His directive the man, to see if he would believe and give it a try in faith. The conversion of a sinner is the cure of a chronic disease; this is ordinarily done by a word of command: Arise, and walk; turn, and live.

† "Rise" = something he couldn't do before.

† "Take up thy bed" = no safety net / no plans for relapse.

† "Walk" = start taking care of yourself.

† These were 3 things he couldn't do before...because God's commandments are God's enablements!

† God will not command you to do something that you can't do with His help!

### Salvation was immediate

† v. 9 - "And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked." He was healed before he ever tried to get up! It happens in an instant. It's not a process! It happens the second you believe!

† Notice that he made it public immediately. v. 15 - "The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole." It's a good indication that you are serious!

**A man had missed church for months, then showed up one day.** Pastor asked him, "Aren't you in the army of the Lord?" He whispered, "I'm in the secret service!"

† There's no such thing!

## There is Power in the Way He Sees, Way He Searches, and Way He Speaks!

† And there is Power in the Way Jesus Saves!

† Rise up! Overcome! Take up your bed! Make no plans for failure. No safety net. That takes faith!

† Admit your condition! "I am a spiritual cripple with no hope."

† Believe in His Power! "I have no power over sin. But Jesus has the power to forgive."

† Confess your desire, "I want to be made well. I need spiritual healing."

† The only way we can be healed is if Christ heals us! Trust that He will!

† That is called FAITH.

† There is Power in the Blood of the Lamb!

† Jesus has the power to see, to search your heart, and to say, "You are forgiven. Rise up and follow me!"