

Sunday Morning Message

September 6, 2020

I Have No Man

Topic – Volunteering to Serve

Text – John 15:1 - 16

Congregational Reading – John 15:5 - 8

Introduction [Read and explain the entire passage]

"After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem." (John 5:1)

We are not sure which of the Jewish feasts are referred to here. It could be the Passover, possibly Pentecost. I believe that this event took place in the beginning of the second year of Jesus' earthly ministry.

"Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches." (John 5:2)

Bethesda means "House of Grace" or "House of Mercy". The pool was located in the northeast corner of Jerusalem, just outside of the Temple, near the sheep gate. The pool was surrounded by "porches", and was divided in two by a porch.

"In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water." (John 5:3)

People who needed physical healing came to this place.

"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)

"And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years." (John 5:5)

Notice that this man had this infirmity 38 years.

You may have been struggling for a long time. You may have been waiting forever for something to change, and you may feel that nothing is ever going to change. Keep waiting. Keep praying. Stay faithful. Jesus may be coming to your situation today.

"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?" (John 5:6)

Notice that Jesus came to this one man. There were many at the pool, but Jesus comes to this one. [Illustrate – the woman at the well]

"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." (John 5:7)

The man couldn't get to the pool in time. He obviously couldn't walk. Somebody always beat him to the pool.

"Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." (John 5:8)

Jesus didn't need to get this man into a pool. He was the pool. This man needed only to put his faith in Jesus.

"And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath." (John 5:9)

Can you imagine walking after 38 years of not being able to. He didn't even need physical therapy.

"The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed." (John 5:10)

"He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk." (John 5:11)

"Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?" (John 5:12)

"And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place." (John 5:13)

"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." (John 5:14)

"The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole." (John 5:15)

"And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day." (John 5:16)

The focus of the message this morning is found in the phrase, "I have no man." For 38 years this man couldn't find any man that was willing to help him get to the water in time so that he could be healed.

This phrase is found also in Philippians 2:

"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." (Philippians 2:19-21)

In the Old Testament, God, through the prophet Ezekiel stated that He was looking for a man that would stand in the gap, but He couldn't find any.

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 22:30-31)

I **No Shortage of People That Need Help (v. 3)**

There are a lot of people out there who need help.

In our story the great multitude consisted of people with physical infirmities, and they were gathered by the pool waiting for a miracle.

Today, there is also a great multitude of people, and they need a miracle also.

Physical Problems

Financial Problems

Family Problems

Some are battling addictions

Some have had their lives wrecked by sin

Some have had their hearts ripped out through personal tragedy

Some are out of work and their unemployment is running out

Some are physically unable to work

Some can work, but are in constant pain

Some have made a mess of their lives in the past, and are trying to climb out of the pit that they have dug themselves.

People today have problems.

People today are looking for and waiting for a miracle just as much as the people in Jesus' day. They may not know what they are looking for; they just know that they have a great need.

People today need the Lord.

II A Shortage of People Willing to Help (v. 7)

Some had needs themselves and were unable to help. Many of the people gathered around the pool were people who were just as desperate as this man was. They couldn't help the man, because they were in a bad way themselves.

Many were too busy living life to take time to help this man.

Many others were unwilling to go near the people that needed help. They didn't want to rub shoulders with these needy people.

Go to Luke 10:30 – 35 – *The Good Samaritan* – The Priest and the Levite were either "too good" or too busy to help this man.

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

God is looking for some laborers who are willing to help other people.

The best way to get help yourself is to do what you can to help others.

III No Shortage of Critics Who Will Find Fault With The Few Who Are Willing To Help (vs. 10 – 16)

Notice in our text that the religious people who were present were unable or unwilling to help this man, but they sure found time to criticize the One that did.

Critics don't just limit themselves to criticizing the One that tries to help; they also love to criticize the person who needs the help.

Conclusion

If you need help today – come to Jesus – He is the only one that can help you anyway.

If you have been helped by Jesus – then look for ways that you can help others.

You can pray.

There may also some practical things that you can do.

You can comfort and encourage.

You can point them to Jesus, His Word, and His Church.

If you are unwilling to help – don't criticize the ones who are helping.

Where are the men and women today who are willing to make a difference for the Lord? Could God find a man today that would be willing to stand in the gap.

R.A. Torrey recounts a story told regarding D.L. Moody:

Henry Varley, a very intimate friend of Mr. Moody in the earlier days of his work, loved to tell how he once said to him: "It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly to Him." I am told that when Mr. Henry Varley said that, Mr. Moody said to himself: "Well, I will be that man." And I, for my part, do not think "it remains to be seen" what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly to Him. I think it has been seen already in D. L. Moody.

Where are the men and women today that are wholly devoted to God? Where are the men today who will sell out completely for the cause of Christ? Where are the men today that will make a difference? Could God spare America today because you (or I) are standing in the gap? God is looking for some men and women today who are willing to live for Him: to stand boldly in the midst of a wicked generation, that will stand for the Truth and shine the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Will you be that man?

Will you be that woman?