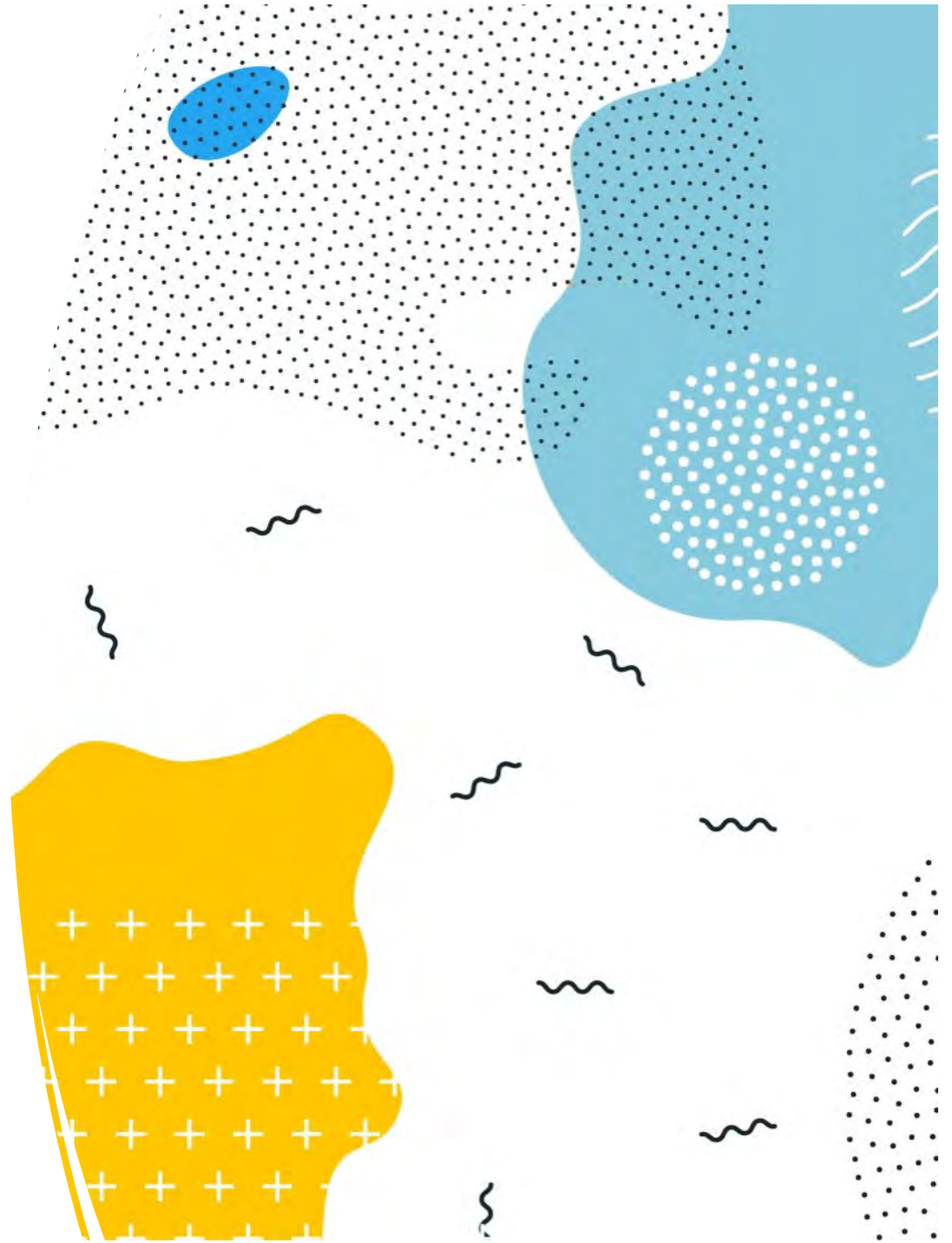



Do You
Want to
Get Well?
John 5:2-8





John 5:2-8

***“Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having 5 porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time in the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty–eight years.*”**



When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to Him, Do you want to be made well?

The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked.

- The first thing that we notice about this man is that he is totally helpless and is surrounded by other helpless people
 - A crowd of people, all in the same boat! (vs 3, blind, lame, paralyzed, disabled)
 - Secondly, the disabled man is in the presence of the One Person who can help him, and *He Doesn't Realize It!*
 - That happens to us too!
-

#1 We Are All in the Same Boat!

- In this story John is painting a picture for us of “The Human Condition”

- WE ARE ALL SPIRITUALLY HELPLESS AND HOPELESS

Spiritually Disabled

Spiritually Blind; 2 Peter 1:9

Spiritually Paralyzed

Repeat Offenders

... “For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”

Rom.7:19-20

- We ALL have a “Spiritually Challenging Disability.”

DO WE WANT TO GET WELL? 2 Timothy 3:16-17

#2 If We Want to Get Well, We Have to Stop Making Excuses

- Why Jesus chose this man out of the huge crowd, I do not know
- Why did Jesus choose to put salvation at your personal doorstep? He knows our condition as He did this man's!
- The first utterance Jesus says to this disabled man is a question, "Do you want to get well?"
- Notice, rather than answer the question (yes or no), the man begins to make excuses
- His first response to Jesus is basically:
"I don't have the help I need" "The system is messed up"
That was Not the answer to the question!

The Question Jesus Asked Identified a Deeper Problem

Some People Get Comfortable With Their Condition

- For some there is a Psychological payoff received by their condition that they don't feel they get otherwise
- Some patients learn how to be, "*catered to*" by being viewed as chronically ill
- Some patients will "milk their disability" as long as they can for the attention they can receive (making care takers, health care agencies and family members miserable)
- These "Care Takers" can become "enablers" of the patient's suffering

Do You Want to Get Well?

In many cases, the more a person will accept “Progressive Independent Activity,” the more independent they can become!



If This Man Gets Healed His Problem May Be More Than Physical!

- If this man gets healed, that means he will now have to be responsible for taking care of himself
 - He will be responsible for feeding himself
 - He will be responsible for providing for himself (a job)
- If he gets healed, he can't be a beggar anymore
- He can't blame his problems on his medical issues
- He can't say, "*no one will put me in the pool,*" anymore
- He can't rely on the recurring Disability letter from his Doctor to clear him as "totally and permanently disabled"

Symptoms and Signs of Spiritual Paralysis

- When there is no desire for Bible study or prayer
- When we shy away from spiritual conversation and feel embarrassed by it (that's why God has us in certain places)
- When we rationalize sin rather than try to overcome it
- When we can quote scripture and attend worship but it makes no difference in our behavior, James 1:22
- When making money dominates our lives
- When God providentially shines a light on our immoral actions, but we see no need to change them

The Question is: Do We Want to Get Well?

#3 Obey Jesus

- Jesus told him, *“Rise, take up your bed and walk.”*
- This man’s faith was shown when he did exactly what Jesus said (he physically tried to move his legs which hadn’t moved for almost 40 years)
- Sometimes it takes hard work to get well
- What if he hadn’t put forth any effort?
- Some patients become invalids because of a lack of effort on their part; Jesus told the man, *“Rise”*
- If we want the blessings of Jesus we have to put forth the principles of Jesus in our lives

“Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you.” Matthew 20:4

#4 Don't Listen to Lies About the Bible

- After the man had been healed, listen to what the Jewish leaders said to the man, verses 9-10

“And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

- Notice that the leaders lied to the man about what the scriptures taught, saying that the law said something that it did not say
- Under the Old Testament the Jews were not permitted to work for gain or profit on the Sabbath
- A cured man carrying his mat did not conflict with that

Do You Want to Get Well?

Lies About the Bible

What the Bible Says

Once Saved Always Saved

1 Corinthians 10:12; 9:27

Baptism is not essential

Mark 16:15,16; 1Pet. 3:21

Pray the Sinner's prayer

John 9:31

Church not needed for salvation

Col 1:18; Eph 4:4; 5:23

Believing in God is all God wants

James 2:19



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38