##  Get Soaked

### Water Stories of Jesus Pooling Resources – DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?

Illlus: For years the doctor has told me I need to lose weight, my triglycerides and bad cholesterol were high and my good cholesterol was low.

Last December it happened, all of a sudden I became tired all the time and had this insatiable thirst. The hospital conducted a health screening for our insurance and it revealed what I had already suspected that I was a type 2 diabetic. The next day I went to my Doctor and he confirmed it.

I was at a crossroads in my life do I try to get medication that would allow me to keep on as I was or did I really want to be healed.

I wanted to be healed. So I pooled my resources at the hospital first by discussing with my doctor what medication I needed, second was talking to our Dietician to under stand diet and carbs, third committing to cut all junk food out of my life and to start eating healthy.

I wanted to get well!

Praise God at my 6 week check up, I have lost over 25 lbs. my fasting blood sugar dropped from 11 to 6.2 or 120 which is High Normal and my triglycerides dropped from over 400 to 179.

Today we are going go with Jesus to visit a man who he asks that question.

Follow with me as I read - John 5:1-6

Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. 2 Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves. 3 Hundreds of sick people — blind, crippled, paralyzed — were in these alcoves. 5 One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, "Do you want to get well?" MESSAGE

Jesus is the master of using questions to open up lives.

Questions can serve so many purposes.

Not every question is seeking information.

OSU fans might ask OU fans, “How many national championships has your team won?”

OU fans might respond with another question, “When did your team last win a championship?”

They really aren't asking for answers, but playing a different game, trying to get one up on the other.

In one of my favorite movies “Fiddler on the Roof” Teyve asks his wife of 25 years, “Do you love me?” He wanted to know if the love of his life loved him.

Which reminds me… don't forget Saturday is Valentines Day,

My favorite question is when you smash your thumb and some asks, “Does it hurt?”

Jesus is the master of using questions to get deeper.

His first words to this man come in the form of a question and, frankly, it has brusqueness to it.

It might be heard as rude or offensive.

At best, it is a curious question.

“Do you want to get well?”  (John 5:6.)

We aren't told exactly what the man's ailment is, but it sounds like he is crippled.

He has been waiting by the side of this pool for 38 years.

How shall he answer this question: “Do you want to get well?”

“No, I'm just working on my tan.”

“Do I want get well—what do you think I'm doing here?”

I can even hear him thinking, “Does this guy just come here to make fun of us?”

The belief—we might call it a superstition—was that whenever the water in that pool stirred it was because of an angel.

And the first person in the pool immediately after the water stirred would be healed.

If you were second, tough luck.

Thirty-eight years of this routine would have worn anyone down.

Thirty-eight years and who knows how many tears?

Do you have dreams and visions that have been worn down with time?

Have you been sitting by the side of the pool and grown tired of waiting to get in it first after the water is stirred?

“Do you want to get well?”

 His surprising question penetrates like a laser.

This is a question we need to hear.

“Do you want to get well?”

Do we really want to change?

We talk about wanting a certain outcome in our lives.

Are we willing to do what it takes for that outcome to become reality?

Do we want to give up that habit that works against our health?

Do we want to lose those pounds we gained last winter?

Do we want to become better listeners?

Do we want to control our anger better?

Do we want to make a difference in the lives of others?

Do we want to see poverty end?  Prejudice? Violence?

Are we willing to stand up and do something?

“Do you want to get well?”

It is tempting at times, particularly times of discouragement, and especially in long times of discouragement, to seek healing or help by any means available, including superstition.

It is also tempting to give up.

I'm not sure which camp that man was in.

At times we show up without any hope or expectation.

We go through the motions with no heart, no intent, no expectation.

We need routines, even rites, to keep us moving at times.

But they can dry up.

They can leave us parched.

Or they can put us in the right place for that moment when Jesus looks at us and speaks to us.

Showing up can be a good discipline.

The man showed up that day, as he had for 38 years.

And Jesus showed up.

From today's story we are reminded again that Jesus finds us.

Ps 139:7-8

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
NASU

We saw it last week when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well and, in the conversation that followed, her life was changed.

We see it today when Jesus approaches the man by the pool.

Jesus speaks to his need and brings the power of God to him.

Jesus finds this man twice.

First he heals him, but that man didn't get his name or number.

When the religious leaders hit him with their dead legalism, he can't even say who did this to him.

Then Jesus slips out of the crowd again and find him again.

Many of us are like that man; we need Jesus to find us a second time, a third time.

He never gets lost, but we do.

Jesus had to find me a number of times before I started getting it; how about you?

Jesus still sees me drifting a bit and he comes to find me again.

And again.

**The man's healing is not found in that pool, but in the one who brings living water.**

Our healing and wholeness are never found in technique or superstition, but in Jesus.

He brings the new birth, he brings the living water, and he asks the penetrating question:  “Do you want to get well?”

The man gives an explanation.

We might call it a defense or an excuse.

Jesus doesn't chide him, but speaks the word:  “‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.'

Today God says to us, “Do we want to get well?”

He Is In Pursuit of Us

Jesus is the one pursuing the man at the pool.

There was a crowd at the pool.

They were paralyzed, blind, lame, sick—all of them seeking the same thing—healing.

You can only wonder why he focused on this one particular individual.

The man didn't even know who Jesus was.

Later when he was asked who healed him, he didn't even bother to find out Jesus' name.

You would think that he would stop long enough to get the name of the one who healed him.

Jesus pursues us to give us a full life.

He did not come to give us a life sparingly measured out to us.

He came to give us a life heaped up and overflowing with the measure of the fullness of God.

Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'" (John 10:10-11 NIV)

**We must take our eyes off the pool and focus on God's desire for us** .

God is willing to increase our desire for spiritual wholeness and he alone has the resources to do it.

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.”  (John 5:8-9.)

Which of those three words do we most need to hear:  Get up?  Pick up your mat?  Or, walk?

In our day of instant gratification, too many of us look at how this man was healed and expect God to zap us out of our problems.

His healing did not end his struggle in life.

"Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, ‘See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.'" (John 5:14 NIV)

When Jesus came it wasn't his purpose to release us from the pains of mortality.

He came to give us hope in spite of our mortality.

Most of us are looking for a formula that will result in the final quick solution to our problems.

We are not looking to be healed over a lifetime of struggle to remain in a relationship with God.

Just give me some doctrine to believe or some magic words to utter.

**Jesus doesn't just heal the man physically---he pursues the man the man to heal him spiritually.**

He finds the man at the temple and tells him to stop sinning because something worse might happen to him.

God is seeking to empower us by giving us something real to hold onto.

He offers you himself but you must let go of yourself.

Initially, when Jesus proposed his question to the cripple the man focused on his own inabilities.

He saw his helplessness and admitted them.

He responds, "I have no one to put me in the pool."

Jesus immediately transfers the man's concerns from his own efforts to Jesus' efforts.

He must be thinking, "I must do it---but I can't."

Somewhere in there he must have been thinking, "If this man is going to help me, I must listen to him."

According to the Bureau of Standards in Washington, a dense fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of less that one glass of water.

That amount of water is divided into about 60 billion tiny droplets.

Yet when those minute particles settle over a city or the countryside, they can almost blot out everything from your sight.

Many Christians today live their lives in a fog.

They allow a cupful of troubles to cloud their vision and dampen their spirit.

Anxiety, turmoil and defeat strangle their thoughts.

The chorus of a beautiful old song says: "His power can make you what you ought to be; His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free." God gives us power to overcome sin in our lives.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12.)

God has given us power to come to Christ; power to become disciples of Christ; power to overcome through Christ.

In the eyes of the lame man's religious acquaintances this he was a religious failure not because of his sin but because of his circumstances.

As Christians we too are often looked at as failures if we do not have the appearances of success and well being in the eyes of our world.

When I first heard this story I wept.

It is a story of a father's love and a son's determination not to give in to his circumstances.

Rick Hoyt was strangled by the umbilical cord at his birth, leaving him brain-damaged and unable to control his limbs.

Doctors told the Hoyts to put him in an institution, but they wouldn't.

They noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room.

They found a way for him to communicate though he couldn't speak

After seeing a running race, Rick pecked out on his specially designed keyboard, “Dad, I want to do that.''

How was Dick, a self-described “porker” who never ran more than a mile at a time, going to push his son five miles?

He tried and was sore for two weeks.

That day changed Rick's life.

“Dad,'' he typed, “When we were running, it felt like I wasn't disabled anymore!”

And that sentence changed Dick Hoyt's life.

He committed himself to giving Rick that feeling as often as he could.

He got into shape and tried to run with Rick in a rig in front of him in the 1979 Boston Marathon.

“No way,” Dick was told.

In 1983 they ran another marathon so fast they qualified for Boston the following year.

Eighty-five times Dick has pushed Rick in marathons.

Eight times he's not only pushed him 26.2 miles in a wheelchair but also towed him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars–all in the same day.

And Dick got something else out of all this too.

A few years ago he had a mild heart attack during a race.

Doctors found that one of his arteries was 95% clogged.

“If you hadn't been in such great shape,'' one doctor told him, “you probably would've died 15 years ago.''  So, in a way, Dick and Rick saved each other's life.

**We all need someone, sometime, to carry us.**

To push us.

To hold us.

To be channels of God's healing power for us.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:29-31.)

Do you want to get well?

There's a pool of living water waiting … Get up, Pick up and walk!

Get Soaked encountering Jesus' healing power today.

Rise up and walk in newness of life.

When you run with Jesus, sin will no longer disable you.

When you run with Jesus, you will experience His power?