

Healer for the Hopeless

John 5:1-18

Legalism is an enemy
Legalism dispels joy
Legalism decreases our compassion for others

I. The Desperate Setting (vs. 1-5)

- A. Time: one of the festivals
- B. Location: Pool of Bethesda
Jesus concentrated on people in need.
- C. Situation: “waiting for the moving of the waters” (vs. 4)

II. The Divine Intervention (vs. 6-7)

- A. The amazing compassion – “When Jesus saw him..”
- B. The surprising question: “Do you want to get well?”
Jesus dealt with a man who may have had his heart withered as well as his legs.
- C. The hopeless response

III. The Deliverance (vs. 8-9a)

- A. Get up -
It was impossible
It was instant

B. Pick up your mat –

The mat, which represented his 38 years of sickness, now becomes a testimony of his healing.

C. Walk –

Hebrews 12:1-3

Jesus the healer (**Exodus 15:26**)
Jesus the Messiah (**Isaiah 35:3-7**)

IV. The Aftermath (vs. 9b-15)

- A. The encounter with the Pharisees (vs. 9b-13)
A violation of the Sabbath law - **Jeremiah 17:22**
- B. The encounter with Jesus (vs. 14-15)
Command: “you are well again, stop sinning”
Romans 6:1-2
Warning: “or something worse may happen to you”

V. The Persecution (vs. 16-18)

- A. Sabbath-breaking (vs. 16)
- B. Blasphemy (vs. 17-18)
True rest comes from cooperating with God in the work He wants done and trusting in the work He has already done.

Conclusion

- What we need to know is, where is God moving in our life, and then work with Him.
- In some area of your life, do you want to be healed? If so, “stand up, take up your bed, and walk.”