

# Jesus Heals a Forgotten and Invalid Man

John 5:1-18

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**John 5:1-18** shows God DOES help those who cannot help themselves. Through His saving grace, Jesus rescued mankind. Grace is an unmerited gift that cannot be earned.

## 3 Aspects of the Grace of God:

### **1. Seeking Grace (vv. 2-3):**

Jerusalem's Sheep Gate had a pool around which disabled people were left to fend for themselves. We see mankind's helplessness in this pathetic picture. It is this condition of man that the Apostle Paul pinpoints in Romans 9: "none is righteous". The natural state of our being is to reject God. We are blind to Christ, lame to walk in righteousness, and paralyzed to serve God.

Blindness prevented the invalids from seeing the one they awaited. When Jesus walked through the entrance, everyone had a chance of healing their bodies and souls, yet none noticed Him. Everyone could have been healed if they had touched Jesus like the woman with the blood disease and called out to Him like the leper. If we are so blind to God, how can we find God? He will come seeking us just as Jesus sought one man among the sea of invalids (*John 5:5-6*). God's grace will seek us out despite our hopelessness. Are we willing to call out to Him for liberation?

### **2. Healing Grace (vv. 5-9):**

Jesus visits the poor man to put an end to his suffering. In Jesus, we have a God who knows us in the trenches. He knew what the man needed, just as He knows our needs.

*"Do you want to be healed?"* – The man had been waiting for this moment his whole life. After 38 years of failed attempts, he still wanted Jesus to help him to the lousy pool. In essence, he was reducing the Son of God to a human crutch! The same is true for us. We too demote Jesus to the status of our helper and keep returning to the useless pool. Jesus' greatness cannot be experienced by making Him our helper.

Jesus tells the truth – the pool can never heal nor make you whole. Jesus, patient and compassionate, healed the undeserving man even after he insulted Him.

### **3. Costly Grace (vv. 10-18):**

The Jews followed Moses' Sabbath regulations (Exodus 35:2). When questioned, the healed man, driven by self-centeredness, immediately blamed Jesus. The script of self-centeredness says 'you die for me'. The script of the gospel says 'I die for you'. When Jesus saw the man again, he told him, *"Sin no more that nothing worse may happen to you"*. Sin is like a roaring lion seeking a prey to devour and leading to destruction and death. Instead of confessing his sins, the man returned to the Pharisees and reported Jesus' name. By saving his own skin, he made Jesus a marked man and sealed His death sentence!

Why did Jesus bother to help him? God's grace is the reason the underserved can still find hope. God's grace is extremely costly because this healing cost Jesus His life.

How should we respond to this good news (application)?

a) *Repent of Idolatry*: One of the signs of idolatry is restlessness. The people around the pool were restless. When we are not fully rested in God, we search for something. Unless we rest in Him who died for us, we cannot find rest outside.

b) *Rest in Jesus*: We should find rest in God's finished work on the Cross. It is a gift to be able to rest every week on the Sabbath. Although our bodies rest, our hearts don't. Let our identity be rooted in Christ. Regardless of the uncertainty, let us trust God – Jesus is the Lord of wedding joy, He is the Lord of desperate situations, He is the Lord of chronic suffering, He is the Lord of the Sabbath!