

Taking The Next Step

Questions

John 5.1-9

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ ⁷The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ ⁸Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

REFLECTION

The pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem was a place of hope for people in Jerusalem wanting to be healed. People would wait for days, weeks, months to be the first to enter the pool when an angel of the Lord “stirred up the water” and brought healing to the first to enter. In verse 6, Jesus asks the simple question to a man who had been coming here for 38 years: “Do you want to be made well?” Last week, we sat with, “Who am I?” What did you learn about yourself this week? What helped you hear from God (journaling, praying, fasting)? Where did you have trouble? Who helped you hear from God?

This week we ask ourselves, “do you want to be made well?” As we sit with this question this week, it’s important to note these two important points:

1) Being made well is not a one-time event that only impacts one part of our life. It’s an on-going work, with ripple effects to other parts of our lives.

2) Jesus makes an inherent point about our active participation when he asks the question “do you want to be made well?” Our willingness to change and join God in the work is required.

Let us trust that God is stirring the waters of our lives in the places that are the most difficult. What is one step you can take this week to join God’s work of healing and wholeness toward being made well? If you are willing to take this step, pray and trust that God will meet you there.