

Biblical Faith of Nameless People - Week 22

Misplaced Faith - John 5:1-14

John 5:1 Afterwards Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish religious holidays. 2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was Bethesda Pool, with five covered platforms or porches surrounding it. 3 Crowds of sick folks-lame, blind, or with paralyzed limbs-lay on the platforms (waiting for a certain movement of the water, 4 for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and disturbed the water, and the first person to step down into it afterwards was healed). 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him and knew how long he had been ill, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?" 7 "I can't," the sick man said, "for I have no one to help me into the pool at the movement of the water. While I am trying to get there, someone else always gets in ahead of me." 8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, roll up your sleeping mat and go on home!" 9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up the mat and began walking! But it was on the Sabbath when this miracle was done. 10 So the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! It's illegal to carry that sleeping mat!" 11 "The man who healed me told me to," was his reply. 12 "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded. 13 The man didn't know, and Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. 14 But afterwards Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; don't sin as you did before, or something even worse may happen to you." TLB

- Jesus was about to do something very unusual that day. He was about to initiate a faith walk in a man totally unaware that faith was going to be the key to his life changing.
- Notice this: Jesus deliberately healed him on the Sabbath day. This was a clear challenge to the Jewish traditions of the day.
- Dead religion offers very little help to the kind of people hanging at the pool of desperation.
- Faith is the God-endowed ability given to every child of God, enabling him to convert divine truth into present reality. HOW?
 - We inquire of God concerning His will.
 - We believe God concerning what He says.
 - We adjust to God, bringing forth His promises.

We face two difficulties in the walk of faith:

1. Discerning the mind of God and His perfect will in any given situation, and
2. Fighting the good fight of faith once God has given us His will and His truth in every situation.

Faith and believing God are corresponding actions.

Four facts about the encounter:

1. Jesus knew his condition.

The love of God shows itself in the compassion He has for us.

God's protection is always the servant of His purpose.

2. Jesus gets to the critical issue. "Do you want My perfect will for your life or are you content to live in your own will and helplessness?"

- Up to this point, the man simply had misplaced faith.
- He trusted in the water.
- He trusted in others to get him in the water.
- The Lord shows pity on the man and desires to awaken the man's faith to what is real and true.
- Not just for temporal healing would He die one day, but He was offering spiritual healing to the man's heart that day.
- He didn't just stir the waters, He's stirring our own faith and hope. For there are times our spiritual condition, our walk, our worship, our witness, and our faith are just as impotent as the man lying by the pool.
- Faith lays hold of the power to do the impossible.

3. Jesus gives him a command.

- Why did it take 39 years for God to show up and heal? Divine aid is sometimes delayed.
- Although delayed, it's given at the proper time.
- Divine help should motivate us to turn back to God, turn back to obeying, and to loyalty.

4. Jesus calls him to be complete.

Final Thoughts

- Learn to look beyond the circumstances to see what Jesus is trying to accomplish.
- When God begins to show you His plan, you must be willing to join Him. The guy got up and did what Jesus said, even on the Sabbath.
- Ask Jesus to remove the scales from your eyes so you can see the plan.
- For many of us it's time to: GET UP.