

## Misplaced Faith Part 2

### The Ruts that Hold Us Hostage Week 23

John 5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem a pool near the Sheep Gate. This pool in the Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porches (alcoves, colonnades, doorways). 3 In these lay a great number of sick folk--some blind, some crippled, and some paralyzed (shriveled up)--waiting for the bubbling up of the water. 4 For an angel of the Lord went down at appointed seasons into the pool and moved and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was cured of whatever disease with which he was afflicted. 5 There was a certain man there who had suffered with a deep-seated and lingering disorder for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to become well? [Are you really in earnest about getting well?] 7 The invalid answered, Sir, I have nobody when the water is moving to put me into the pool; but while I am trying to come [into it] myself, somebody else steps down ahead of me. 8 Jesus said to him, Get up! Pick up your bed (sleeping pad) and walk! AMP

- We saw the man at the well had faith but it was **misplaced**. He trusted water, and he trusted and hoped someone would help.
- Sound familiar? Do you have times of real **spiritual** ruts in your own personal life?
- They used God to **show off** themselves.
- The kingdom will be taken away from the religious and given to those who **understand** and seek after God
- Remember, truth is worthless unless **believed** and applied with faith.
- The Pharisees had a problem with belief and the rut of **religion**. The disciples had a problem with the spiritual rut of **compliance** ----short on faith and long on doubt.
- The disciples are a picture at times of his church today the Pharisees are a picture of the **unbelieving** world we live in today.

What is a rut?

- “A well traveled path, a **grove** that when traveled enough in time becomes a rut.”
- It’s losing sight of what God **desires** to do in me and it’s me trying to accomplish what God desires without His help or direction. It’s the independent life.
- One man said it’s a **grave** with both ends kicked out.Its what he called a form of Godliness but no **power**.
- Godliness is not about tidying up our lives to have God’s attention and **approval**.

Several kinds of ruts:

1. Rut of **religion**
2. The rut of **repetition**  
We become nothing more than **spiritual technicians**.
3. The rut of **resentment**  
The root of resentment is **pride**.  
Sometimes resentment is caused by **un-forgiveness**.
4. The rut of **rebellion**  
The Pharisees rebellion was to **truth**.  
**Stubbornness** is pride in rebellion to God.
5. The rut of **ridicule**  
Why do we and the Pharisees miss the Redeemer?  
Redeemers that we love:
  - the **rabbit foot** redeemer
  - the **Aladdin lamp** redeemer
  - The “Let’s Make a Deal” redeemer (Monty Hall) These shows are based on knowing man is **curious** and **greedy**.
6. The rut of **reality**
7. The rut of **restriction**

What do we do to get out of the rut?

- **Worship**: The returning to and the leaning on God in such a way we can do nothing but worship.
- **Walk**: Enoch walked with God.
- **Work**: Don’t work just to be pleasing to God, do it out of commitment to who He is.
- **Will**: Change it, surrender it, give it back to God and make it God’s will.