



A Healed Man Goes on Record: Jesus Gives Us Mercy in Our Misery

John 5:1-16
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Because of the Fall of humanity, our world is full of sin, sickness, and suffering. (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12; 8:20-22; Rev. 21:4)

Because of sin, we all are “disabled” in some way.

What happens when Jesus enters a hopeless situation?

▪ A Misery (1-4)

Bethesda – “house of mercy and grace”

We tend to colonize what we cannot cure.

We tend to define ourselves by our dysfunctions and segregate ourselves according to our sicknesses.

Everyone has a mat. What is my mat?

Bethesda was not a house of mercy – it was a pool of misery and a picture of religion and legalism – expecting people to do what they are not able to do in order to be saved.

There is institutionalized misery in the house of mercy.

▪ A Man (5)

The duration of his disease led to his hopelessness.

Like this man, we tend to limit God’s work to our own ideas, but Jesus has other ways!

▪ A Messiah (6-8)

Our mercy toward others depends on how we see and understand them.

“Do you want to get well?” – Do you want to stand on your own feet and take responsibility for your own life?

We all must answer this question because not everyone wants to be made well.

Our “disability” can become our identity.

God’s work often occurs in cooperation with our will.

▪ A Miracle of Mercy (9-16)

Jesus heals! Jesus does for us what we cannot do.

Why wasn’t everyone healed? Ministry is not driven by human need but is directed by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Commands Us:

1) Start Now! “Get up!” (8)

Jesus calls me to obey before circumstances change.

2) Stop Excuses! “Pick up your mat.” (8)

Stop letting disappointments direct me.

Picking up my mat helps prevent relapses. I will never get where I am going by relying on what used to be.

3) Step Out! “Walk.” (8)

Walk out and live in my ongoing transformation. Jesus heals us not to make life easier, but to make us more like Jesus.

We need a faith that brings function to our dysfunction.

4) Seek Jesus and his way! “You are well. Stop sinning.” (14)

Physical healing is wonderful, but spiritual healing is greater!

I refuse to allow religious routines, rituals, and rules to replace my relationship with Jesus.