**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Jesus Is God’s Answer to Man’s Disability |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 5:1-14 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #5704 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We are to believe in miracles, but we are to trust in Jesus.
   2. In the Gospel of John, there are seven miracles listed.
      1. These miracles were given to us so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ.
         1. John 20:30-31
      2. They are miracles with a meaning.
      3. They are miracles with a message.
      4. They are signs with a significance.
   3. When Jesus turned water into wine, that told us that Jesus is God’s answer to man’s disappointments.
   4. When Jesus healed the son of the nobleman who doubted, we saw that Jesus is God’s answer to man’s doubt.
   5. In today’s message, we will see that Jesus is God’s answer to man’s disability.
   6. Isaiah 40:30
      1. All human strength will ultimately fail.
   7. 2 Corinthians 4:16
      1. The question is not what is going to happen to our bodies, but do we have the inner strength that God wants us to have?
   8. John 5:1-14
      1. “Bethesda” means “House of Mercy”.
      2. In this passage, the word “impotent” means that they had no strength; they were without power.
   9. The miracle took place at the Pool of Bethesda.
      1. The Lord Jesus showed His mercy to a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.
      2. This place was like a health spa.
         1. On all of the porches, there were sick people.
            1. Some of them had withered limbs.
            2. Some were blind.
            3. Some may have had maladies like us but only worse.

They were hoping for a miracle.

* + 1. Yearly, when the water would bubble up, God in His mercy would perform a miracle.
       1. Whoever stepped into the water would be healed.
  1. Jesus went to the Pool of Bethesda on the feast day.
     1. He went to one particular man.
        1. There were many people there, but Jesus chose one.
     2. This man had been sick, paralyzed, and an invalid for thirty-eight years.
        1. He had been at the Pool of Bethesda a long time.
        2. He had been waiting in line and trying to get close to the water so that he might be the first in the water and be healed.
     3. Jesus asked him a profound but very simple question:
        1. “Do you want to be made whole?”
           1. John 5:6
           2. Jesus also asks you this question.

This man was a representative man.

* 1. Jesus is not merely in the healing business.
     1. He only healed one there.
     2. The Bible tells us that there was a great multitude there.
     3. Had Jesus been a great healer, He would have gone from place to place, from person to person, and healed them all.
        1. But He just healed this one man.
     4. This was a miracle with a message.
        1. Jesus was teaching a greater spiritual truth.
     5. After Jesus healed this man, Jesus silently slipped away.
        1. Had He stayed there, the people would have clamored after Him to be healed.
  2. Jesus did not come as the great healer; He came as the Savior.
     1. John 20:31
     2. We need to go beyond miracles and on to Jesus.
        1. We believe in miracles, but we trust in Jesus.
  3. G. Campbell Morgan once said that every parable that Jesus taught was a miracle of instruction.
     1. And every miracle that Jesus wrought was a parable of instruction.
        1. He didn’t mean that the miracles were not real, but there is a miraculous message in the miracle.
  4. The word for “miracle” in the Gospel of John is the word “sign”.
     1. It means it has significance.
  5. Jesus didn’t heal everyone that day, but he healed this one man to get a message across to those of us who need spiritual strength.
     1. Spiritually, by nature, we are paralyzed and without strength.
     2. In Christ, we have power for living.
        1. Jesus is God’s answer to man’s spiritual disability.
     3. The physical healing is only temporary.
        1. God has a greater plan and a different plan for us.
  6. There was another man who was brought to Jesus by four men carrying him on a stretcher.
     1. Luke 5:18-26
     2. They let him down through the roof to Jesus.
     3. When Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven, people began to complain and criticize.
        1. They said in effect, “Just who does He think He is? Only God can forgive sin.”
     4. Jesus healed this man physically only to give credibility to the spiritual miracle.
        1. Jesus did something that they could see so that they might understand and believe that which they could not see.
     5. The important thing to Jesus that day was not healing that man’s body.
        1. The important thing was forgiving his sin.
        2. The healing of the body only attested to the greater unseen spiritual miracle.
  7. In today’s message, we will learn three things that will help us to have powerful living and to understand, in the spiritual realm, that Jesus is God’s answer for man’s disability.

1. we must validate our weakness (john 5:5)
   1. We need to admit that we are weak.
   2. This man represents us without the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. The problem that many of us have is that we will not admit that we are spiritually paralyzed.
      1. We will not validate our own weakness.
   4. Romans 5:6
      1. The Bible describes every person without Christ as being without strength.
         1. We are like this impotent man in John 5.
         2. In John 5:7, the word “impotent” means that he was without strength.
            1. Therefore, this man becomes an illustration of every man, woman, boy, and girl without the Lord Jesus.
   5. The primary source of our weakness:
      1. John 5:14
         1. The primary source of this man’s weakness was his sin.
            1. Not everyone is sick because of sin, but this man was.
            2. This was the reason that Jesus picked him out.
            3. His sin and his weakness had a direct connection.
      2. The primary source of our weakness is sin.
         1. We are sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, and sinners by practice.
         2. Romans 3:23
   6. The paralyzing force of our weakness:
      1. Many of us don’t realize that spiritually we are paralyzed.
      2. Romans 5:6
         1. Our weakness is that we don’t have the strength to be godly.
         2. We are without strength, so Christ died for the ungodly.
      3. God’s plan for all of us is that we be godly.
      4. We don’t have the strength to be godly.
         1. We don’t have what it takes to be godly.
         2. We may be strong enough to do as we want, but we are not strong enough to do as we ought.
         3. We cannot be what God would have us to be.
   7. The persistent course of our weakness:
      1. Acts 5:5
         1. This man had been paralyzed, debilitated, and without strength for thirty-eight years.
      2. What happens to a man when he is paralyzed for thirty-eight years?
         1. His muscles begin to atrophy and to wither.
         2. Every year that this man came to the Pool of Bethesda, he was not getting better; he was getting worse.
         3. His muscle tissue was disintegrating.
            1. So it is with a person without Christ.

The longer they live, the worse their condition.

That is the reason why no one should put off giving his or her heart to Jesus Christ.

If you need to be saved, then you should be saved today.

Tomorrow, you will only have more sin to repent of and less time to repent in.

* + 1. The persistent course is that it goes on and on, but down and down.
  1. We must validate our weakness.
     1. We must admit that God is right, and we are without strength.
     2. We need to lay our pride aside and admit our need.

1. we must activate our will (john 5:6)
   1. Do you wish to be made whole?
      1. What is your will in this matter?
   2. God will enable our will, but God will not coerce our will.
      1. If God were to coerce your will, then your relationship with Him would be forced.
         1. You would no longer be a person but a machine.
            1. God can have no fellowship with a machine.
   3. If we want to come to Christ, then we may come to Him.
      1. If we don’t want to come to Christ, then He will not force us.
      2. Whosoever will may come.
         1. Revelation 22:17
   4. God has given you a will; and He asks, “Will you be made whole?”
      1. John 5:6
   5. Some theologians think that when we talk about the free will of a person, we somehow negate the sovereignty of God.
      1. Both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man are taught in the Scripture.
      2. The fact that God respects human will does not negate or denigrate the sovereignty of God.
      3. Sometimes people build artificial arguments that ought not to be built.
   6. God never made anyone to go to Hell.
      1. 2 Peter 3:9
      2. Romans 10:13
      3. Revelation 22:17
   7. God is sovereign.
      1. He is sovereign enough to give us a will without losing His own sovereignty.
         1. That is how sovereign God is.
   8. Hell would cease to exist if God created us for Hell and Hell for us.
      1. The flames of Hell would turn into the flames of glory because we would be right in the center of the will of God.
      2. If you go to Hell, you will be an intruder.
         1. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.
   9. The Lord asked, “Will you be made whole?”
      1. John 5:6
      2. Why would you ask a sick man this question?
         1. The answer seems obvious.
         2. The question seems unnecessary.
         3. But the Lord was teaching a lesson here.
            1. He will not force Himself upon any individual.

Whosoever will may come.

* + 1. This man could never have said “Yes” to Jesus, except Jesus had given the initiative.
       1. “We love Him because He first loved us.”
          1. 1 John 4:19
       2. He will not force our will, but He always enables our will.
       3. We could never choose Him if He had not first chosen us.
    2. Jesus didn’t ask the man if he wanted to walk again.
       1. He used a word that encapsulates fullness, wholeness, and wholesomeness.
    3. Many people want the result of sin erased, but they don’t want to be made whole.
       1. They don’t want to truly be a full person as God intended for them to be.
  1. Jesus asks, “Will you be made whole?”
     1. That pardon is no good if it is not validated by you.

1. we must intiate our walk (john 5:7-9)
   1. The purpose of this miracle was to teach a greater spiritual miracle.
      1. Not that Jesus can heal a paralyzed man, but that Jesus can save a soul and give us spiritual power to be godly.
      2. John 20:30-31
   2. John didn’t write the Gospel of John so that paralyzed people might be healed.
      1. He wrote the Gospel of John so that lost people might be saved.
      2. Not that we would receive physical strength, but that we would receive super-natural strength from above.
      3. So that believing in Jesus, we could walk in vitality, liberty, and victory day-by-day.
   3. Jesus told this man to rise, to take his bed, and to walk.
      1. We must initiate our walk.
         1. Ephesians 2:8-10
            1. These verses are built around three prepositions:

By

Through

Unto

* + 1. How was this man delivered?
       1. It was “by” grace.
          1. There was nothing he could do because he was paralyzed.
          2. Immediately he was made whole.

John 5:9

* + - * 1. Salvation is by the sheer grace of God.
        2. How can you tell a paralyzed man to get up?

If he could get up, then he would have gotten up a long time ago.

It was impossible; and because it was impossible, it was unreasonable.

But he stood up.

* + - * 1. Jesus does the impossible and the unreasonable, but it is possible with Him.

Matthew 19:26

Jesus told the paralyzed man to rise.

That is what He tells every sinner.

He will save you supernaturally and transform you.

It is by grace.

* + - 1. It was “through” faith.
         1. Jesus told the man to take up his bed.
         2. Why would this man, who had been waiting in line year after year, take up his bed?

He wouldn’t get out of line if he didn’t believe Jesus.

* + - * 1. It is by grace, but it is through faith.

Ephesians 2:8

Obey Jesus, and trust Jesus.

* + - * 1. The man put his faith into action.

Faith is belief with legs on it.

* + - 1. It was “unto” good works.
         1. John 5:8

The Greek verb was not talking about a particular action where you just take a step.

It means to walk and just keep on walking.

* 1. Was this man healed because he walked, or did he walk because he was healed?
     1. He walked because he was healed.
  2. We are not saved by doing good works.
     1. We are saved unto good works.
     2. We are saved by grace through faith unto good works.
  3. We live the Christian life not in order to be saved, but because we are saved.
     1. Jesus didn’t say to this man, “Walk, take up your bed and rise.”
        1. He could not walk until he was up.
     2. We cannot live the Christian life until after we receive the Christian life.
        1. “As we have received the Lord Jesus, so walk in Him.”
           1. Colossians 2:6
  4. If we understand that we are saved by grace through faith unto good works, then we will receive the strength to live super-naturally.
     1. 2 Corinthians 4:16

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus did not come as the great healer; He came as a great teacher.
   2. We need to go beyond miracles and on to Jesus.
      1. Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
   3. John 20:30-31
   4. Why follow Christ?
      1. He is the everlasting truth, and God in the flesh.
      2. Not so He can perform miracles for us, but because He is the Son of God who reconciles you to Himself.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16