

SERMON OUTLINE

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

- a) We are to believe in miracles, but we are to trust in Jesus.
- b) In the Gospel of John, there are seven miracles listed.
 - i) These miracles were given to us so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 - (1) John 20:30-31
 - ii) They are miracles with a meaning.
 - iii) They are miracles with a message.
 - iv) They are signs with a significance.
- c) When Jesus turned water into wine, that told us that Jesus is God's answer to man's disappointments.
- d) When Jesus healed the son of the nobleman who doubted, we saw that Jesus is God's answer to man's doubt.
- e) In today's message, we will see that Jesus is God's answer to man's disability.
- f) Isaiah 40:30
 - i) All human strength will ultimately fail.
- g) 2 Corinthians 4:16
 - i) 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?
- h) John 5:1-14
 - i) "Bethesda" means "House of Mercy".
 - ii) In this passage, the word "impotent" means that they had no strength; they were without power.
- i) The miracle took place at the Pool of Bethesda.
 - i) The Lord Jesus showed His mercy to a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.
 - ii) This place was like a health spa.
 - (1) On all of the porches, there were sick people.
 - (a) Some of them had withered limbs.
 - (b) Some were blind.
 - (c) Some may have had maladies like us but only worse.
 - (i) They were hoping for a miracle.
 - iii) Yearly, when the water would bubble up, God in His mercy would perform a miracle.
 - (1) Whoever stepped into the water would be healed.
- j) Jesus went to the Pool of Bethesda on the feast day.
 - i) He went to one particular man.
 - (1) There were many people there, but Jesus chose one.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Jesus asked him a profound but very simple question:
 - (1) "Do you want to be made whole?"

- (a) John 5:6
- (b) Jesus also asks you this question.
 - (i) This man was a representative man.
- k) Jesus is not merely in the healing business.
 - i) He only healed one there.
 - ii) The Bible tells us that there was a great multitude there.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) This was a miracle with a message.
 - (1) Jesus was teaching a greater spiritual truth.
 - v) After Jesus healed this man, Jesus silently slipped away.
 - (1) Had He stayed there, the people would have clamored after Him to be healed.
- l) Jesus did not come as the great healer; He came as the Savior.
 - i) John 20:31
 - ii) We need to go beyond miracles and on to Jesus.
 - (1) We believe in miracles, but we trust in Jesus.
- m) G. Campbell Morgan once said that every parable that Jesus taught was a miracle of instruction.
 - i) 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.
- n) The word for "miracle" in the Gospel of John is the word "sign".
 - i) It means it has significance.
- o) 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.
 - i) Spiritually, by nature, we are paralyzed and without strength.
 - ii) In Christ, we have power for living.
 - (1) Jesus is God's answer to man's spiritual disability.
 - iii) The physical healing is only temporary.
 - (1) God has a greater plan and a different plan for us.
- p) There was another man who was brought to Jesus by four men carrying him on a stretcher.
 - i) Luke 5:18-26
 - ii) They let him down through the roof to Jesus.
 - iii) 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."
 - iv) 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.

- v) 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.
 - q) 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.
- 2) WE MUST VALIDATE OUR WEAKNESS (JOHN 5:5)
- a) We need to admit that we are weak.
 - b) This man represents us without the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c) The problem that many of us have is that we will not admit that we are spiritually paralyzed.
 - i) We will not validate our own weakness.
 - d) Romans 5:6
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Therefore, this man becomes an illustration of every man, woman, boy, and girl without the Lord Jesus.
 - e) The primary source of our weakness:
 - i) John 5:14
 - (1) The primary source of this man's weakness was his sin.
 - (a) Not everyone is sick because of sin, but this man was.
 - (b) This was the reason that Jesus picked him out.
 - (c) His sin and his weakness had a direct connection.
 - ii) 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
 - f) The paralyzing force of our weakness:
 - i) Many of us don't realize that spiritually we are paralyzed.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) God's plan for all of us is that we be godly.
 - iv) 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.
 - g) The persistent course of our weakness:
 - i) Acts 5:5

- (1) This man had been paralyzed, debilitated, and without strength for thirty-eight years.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) So it is with a person without Christ.
 - (i) The longer they live, the worse their condition.
 - 1. That is the reason why no one should put off giving his or her heart to Jesus Christ.
 - 2. If you need to be saved, then you should be saved today.
 - a. Tomorrow, you will only have more sin to repent of and less time to repent in.
 - iii) The persistent course is that it goes on and on, but down and down.
- h) We must validate our weakness.
 - i) We must admit that God is right, and we are without strength.
 - ii) We need to lay our pride aside and admit our need.
- 3) WE MUST ACTIVATE OUR WILL (JOHN 5:6)
- a) Do you wish to be made whole?
 - i) What is your will in this matter?
 - b) God will enable our will, but God will not coerce our will.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) God can have no fellowship with a machine.
 - c) If we want to come to Christ, then we may come to Him.
 - i) If we don't want to come to Christ, then He will not force us.
 - ii) Whosoever will may come.
 - (1) Revelation 22:17
 - d) God has given you a will; and He asks, "Will you be made whole?"
 - i) John 5:6
 - e) Some theologians think that when we talk about the free will of a person, we somehow negate the sovereignty of God.
 - i) Both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man are taught in the Scripture.
 - ii) The fact that God respects human will does not negate or denigrate the sovereignty of God.
 - iii) Sometimes people build artificial arguments that ought not to be built.
 - f) God never made anyone to go to Hell.
 - i) 2 Peter 3:9
 - ii) Romans 10:13
 - iii) Revelation 22:17

- g) God is sovereign.
 - i) He is sovereign enough to give us a will without losing His own sovereignty.
 - (1) That is how sovereign God is.
 - h) Hell would cease to exist if God created us for Hell and Hell for us.
 - i) The flames of Hell would turn into the flames of glory because we would be right in the center of the will of God.
 - ii) If you go to Hell, you will be an intruder.
 - (1) Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.
 - i) The Lord asked, "Will you be made whole?"
 - i) John 5:6
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) He will not force Himself upon any individual.
 - (i) Whosoever will may come.
 - iii) This man could never have said "Yes" to Jesus, except Jesus had given the initiative.
 - (1) "We love Him because He first loved us."
 - (a) 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.
 - iv) Jesus didn't ask the man if he wanted to walk again.
 - (1) He used a word that encapsulates fullness, wholeness, and wholesomeness.
 - v) 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.
 - j) Jesus asks, "Will you be made whole?"
 - i) That pardon is no good if it is not validated by you.
- 4) WE MUST INITIATE OUR WALK (JOHN 5:7-9)
- a) The purpose of this miracle was to teach a greater spiritual miracle.
 - i) Not that Jesus can heal a paralyzed man, but that Jesus can save a soul and give us spiritual power to be godly.
 - ii) John 20:30-31
 - b) John didn't write the Gospel of John so that paralyzed people might be healed.
 - i) He wrote the Gospel of John so that lost people might be saved.
 - ii) Not that we would receive physical strength, but that we would receive super-natural strength from above.

- iii) So that believing in Jesus, we could walk in vitality, liberty, and victory day-by-day.
- c) Jesus told this man to rise, to take his bed, and to walk.
 - i) We must initiate our walk.
 - (1) Ephesians 2:8-10
 - (a) These verses are built around three prepositions:
 - (i) By
 - (ii) Through
 - (iii) Unto
 - ii) How was this man delivered?
 - (1) It was “by” grace.
 - (a) There was nothing he could do because he was paralyzed.
 - (b) Immediately he was made whole.
 - (i) John 5:9
 - (c) Salvation is by the sheer grace of God.
 - (d) How can you tell a paralyzed man to get up?
 - (i) If he could get up, then he would have gotten up a long time ago.
 - (ii) It was impossible; and because it was impossible, it was unreasonable.
 - 1. But he stood up.
 - (e) Jesus does the impossible and the unreasonable, but it is possible with Him.
 - (i) Matthew 19:26
 - (ii) Jesus told the paralyzed man to rise.
 - 1. That is what He tells every sinner.
 - a. He will save you supernaturally and transform you.
 - i. It is by grace.
 - (2) It was “through” faith.
 - (a) Jesus told the man to take up his bed.
 - (b) Why would this man, who had been waiting in line year after year, take up his bed?
 - (i) He wouldn't get out of line if he didn't believe Jesus.
 - (c) It is by grace, but it is through faith.
 - (i) Ephesians 2:8
 - (ii) Obey Jesus, and trust Jesus.
 - (d) The man put his faith into action.
 - (i) Faith is belief with legs on it.
 - (3) It was “unto” good works.
 - (a) John 5:8
 - (i) The Greek verb was not talking about a particular action where you just take a step.
 - 1. It means to walk and just keep on walking.

- d) Was this man healed because he walked, or did he walk because he was healed?
 - i) He walked because he was healed.
- e) We are not saved by doing good works.
 - i) We are saved unto good works.
 - ii) We are saved by grace through faith unto good works.
- f) We live the Christian life not in order to be saved, but because we are saved.
 - i) Jesus didn't say to this man, "Walk, take up your bed and rise."
 - (1) He could not walk until he was up.
 - ii) 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."
 - (a) Colossians 2:6
- g) If we understand that we are saved by grace through faith unto good works, then we will receive the strength to live super-naturally.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 4:16

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Jesus did not come as the great healer; He came as a great teacher.
- b) We need to go beyond miracles and on to Jesus.
 - i) Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
- c) John 20:30-31
- d) Why follow Christ?
 - i) He is the everlasting truth, and God in the flesh.
 - ii) Not so He can perform miracles for us, but because He is the Son of God who reconciles you to Himself.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16