

Do you Want to Get Well?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 5.

B. Episode: the healing of the man at Bethesda.

II. We all find ourselves in need of help spiritually at times like the lame man at the pool.

A. Many people do not want to be healed—they love their weakness, so Jesus asks the man whether he wants to be healed.

B. Others want to be healed, but they cannot find a way—they are hopeless in their marriage, against pornography, against drugs and alcohol, etc.

C. Jesus' method was to ask for an impossible thing, remove all possibility of relapse and to expect a continued success.

D. The man had to have faith and had to agree with the will of Jesus.

E. The man was to continue to walk in faith.

III. The Pharisees are revealed as religious bigots because they refuse to acknowledge the mercy of God.

A. Their Sabbath concern had merit. (Jeremiah)

B. However, the Pharisees were out to get Jesus.

IV. Jesus encourages the man to sin no more, but only after the healing.

A. Sometimes, a malady can be the result of sin.

B. However, the individual usually knows it.

C. Jesus reminds the man that God is concerned with sin.

V. Only God's work will last, so we must be sensitive to what He is doing in our lives today.

Application questions:

1. From what kind of maladies do people suffer from today that they often do not want to be healed? From what sins have you struggled to have a true desire for freedom ?

2. What was important to Jesus beyond the physical healing? Why?

3. Why were the Pharisees wrong even though they had some biblical basis for their concern?
How have you seen this take place today?
