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A Meeting With The Master
John 5:1
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A certain man had an affliction for over 38 years. It was a debilitating condition that caused him not to be able to move a few feet to get into the pool of Bethesda to be made well. While the man was sick for 38 years, the text does not say that the man was at the pool for 38 years. His illness was gradual and progressive.

There was a legend in the land that there was healing in the pool at Bethesda, and the one who got in the pool first at the stirring of the water would be made well.

There are situations in our lives that have grown more difficult and painful. And these situations at the onset did not have you to believe that you would be where you are, but nonetheless, there you are, at your wits end, trying to deal with a progressive situation.

Gradual situations that wreak havoc on our lives are real. Even though we are children of God, we strive to deal with these situations without letting others know what we're going through. But life has a way of finding a crack in your armor, and before you know it, the crack becomes a crevasse.

The fact of the matter is that all of us get to a point in life where we are desperate for healing, liberation, and release from the things that wreak havoc in our lives so we can be about the business of being who the Lord has called us to be.

The Pool at Bethesda contained a great multitude of persons having various conditions; they were all at the pool for one purpose, and it was not to make friends and be in relationship with one another but to take a chance at being healed and to have their lives transformed.

There are hurting people all around us. And sometimes our worst day is possibly somebody else best day. Bethesda means house of mercy. The people gathered at a place where they thought they could get some help. The opposite of mercy is justice and you can't appreciate God's mercy until you have had to stand up under justice.

1. Jesus meets the man where the man is.
Normally someone would secretly and silently approach Jesus to work a miracle in their lives. But in this case Jesus went to where the man was to heal him with no prior invitation or association. No one approached Jesus on behalf of the man to have him be made well.

Some of us were the same way; so low down and discouraged that we were not looking for Jesus, but somehow, Jesus met us where we were and healed us. He came to you when you would not come to him. He had his eyes and mind on you even when our eyes and minds were not on him.

As sick as the man at the pool of Bethesda was, Jesus got a hold of the man before death got a hold of him. Jesus got a hold of us before something else got a hold of us like the mental institution, the jailhouse, the crack house, or the funeral home. If it had not been for the Lord on my side...

2. Jesus meets this man with a motive.

Do you want to be made well was the question. Jesus saw the man and knew he was in his condition for a long time. Some of us are at our pool of Bethesda on today and the Lord knows the depth of our situation and our condition; and when you can't tell anybody about what you're going through, when you can't confide in anyone else, when you can't cry on anybody's shoulder you can tell Jesus what you're going through.

What shouts me is that Jesus knows our condition and yet the God I serve won't let anybody else know what your you're through.

The man at the pool was looking for a movement of the water when Jesus was trying to provide a movement of God. While trying to find a man to put him in the water, he did not realize THE man was right in front of him. The man at the pool was concerned about the method for being healed when Jesus was trying to get him to understand the motive for being healed.

- The first motivation was to send a message to the masses. Jesus was going to use this man's illness as a means to an end. If Jesus could heal this man, it would give hope to the others that He could heal them too. Don't be ashamed to have the Lord use you as an example of what is possible when you put your trust and faith in Jesus.
- Secondly, his motivation was to make the man a messenger. Jesus was motivated to give the man something to take about. Up until this point all the man could do was complain about his condition. Jesus makes him into a messenger of His goodness and his power. The man was cured on the Sabbath, and the church folk got upset. But the man who was healed said, "he who made me well told me to take up my bed and walk." Church folk get upset when healed folk break the rules of the church even when the Lord has given them permission.

Once you're sure you know who works miracles in your life, you should never be ashamed of whom He is. Because when we are healed or blessed of the Lord, He wants to make us messengers so a sick and dying world will know that Jesus Christ is able.