

## 20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 30 (July 21-27, 2013)

I have always been fascinated by the questions that Jesus asked the people of His day. We will explore my favorite in our devotions this week. Please take the time to read the entire story each day to get the full impact of this miracle.

**Sunday** -- July 21 (John 5:1-15)

Our Lord comes to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast and enters an area where many disabled people are lying by the pool of Bethesda (v. 1-3). If you are using the NIV, you will notice that v. 4 is only in the footnote. It was not in the original text because all the citizens **knew** why the folks were waiting by the pool. Translators wisely added this verse of explanation so that you and I could understand the passage better. Jesus sees an invalid who has been crippled for 38 years and asks him my favorite question: "Do you want to get well?" (v. 6) What a question for the citizens of our country today! Many have become accustomed to so many government benefits in this entitlement era that they have no desire to become workers in the field. We will follow this thought tomorrow.

**Monday** -- July 22 (John 5:1-15)

I'm glad I was not present with Jesus at the pool of Bethesda. I would have blurted out, "Look at him, Lord! He is an invalid. Of course he wants to get well!" But our Lord's question is valid. Perhaps the man would **prefer** a Lazy Boy recliner so that he can lie by the pool and beg in comfort. If he experiences the healing touch of Jesus, he will be responsible to become a **giving** part of society instead of surviving on the generosity of others. Many in our society have become so accustomed to government benefits that they have no desire to provide for themselves. I am not referring to those who are disabled through no fault of their own. We **must** provide for them! The government **and the church** can help with their needs. But those who **choose** a life of drugs, sex and alcohol must be allowed to experience the consequences of horrible choices. If I knew how to accomplish this, I would be president! I only know that Scripture says, "If a man **will not work**, he shall not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10, emphasis mine).

**Tuesday** -- July 23 (John 5:1-15)

The invalid points out that he has no one to help him into the water when it is stirred. Those who are not lame can always beat him into the pool (v. 7). Aren't you glad that Jesus offers **spiritual** healing to "**whosoever** believeth in Him" (John 3:16) instead of offering His gift only to the first one down the aisle? Our Lord then commands the man to, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (v. 8). The man is healed and obeys the command of Jesus. This should have been a time for celebration, but the Jews are more concerned about their Sabbath laws and traditions than they are about the plight of the former invalid (v. 9-10). They accuse him of breaking the law. The healed man says in effect, "Don't blame me! Blame the man who made me well. He told me to carry my mat on the Sabbath"(paraphrase v. 11). This fellow has experienced a miraculous **physical** healing, yet he has no idea **who** or **where** Jesus is (v. 13). I can testify to being healed of a speech impediment and a heart disease. Because of these miracles, I have dedicated the rest of my life to knowing **who** Jesus is and **where** I can find Him.

**Wednesday** -- July 24 (John 5:1-15)

Notice that the healed man has allowed Jesus to slip away into the crowd. How many of us have lost touch with our Lord because of crowd influence? He makes a wonderful choice to go to the temple, however, where **Jesus finds him** (v. 14). Where else would you **expect** to see a person who has experienced the healing touch of God? Yet there are many people who have been healed **physically** who never darken the door. Jesus commands, "Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (v. 14). What could be worse than being an invalid for 38 years? Those who experience Jesus **only** as the Healer and not as **Savior** and **Lord** will spend Eternity in hell after spending a comfortable life on earth. That's what can happen to those who seek healing only for their bodies and not their souls.

**Thursday** -- July 25 (John 5:1-15)

There are many who say, "We all sin every day in word, thought or deed." That may be your personal experience, but that is not God's will for you. All believers have the Holy Spirit living inside them so that they will not live a **lifestyle of sins**. Look up 1 John 2:1-2 and you will see God's provisions for slip-ups. While you are there, look at 1 John 1:9 to see your personal responsibility. Our world and even our church have accepted sin as a normal part of life. It is time that we call sin by its proper name and stop compromising on Biblical teachings. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12). Make sure you worship in a church that teaches Biblical principles without caving in to the politically correct teachings of the world. Hear Jesus say to you (v. 14), "Stop sinning!"

**Friday** -- July 26 (John 5:1-15)

It may seem obvious that the healed man would tell everyone about Jesus making him well (v. 15), but there are many people who have experienced His healing touch without testifying and giving Him the glory. (I know firsthand because the teasing I took from other kids following my physical healings silenced me during part of my teenage years.) Now this unnamed man tells the Jews that it was **Jesus** who made him well. Now he knows Him personally as Savior and Lord, not only as "the man who made me well" (v. 11). Have you experienced the healing touch of our Lord? If you are a Christian, you have experienced the greatest healing He has ever accomplished. Be sure you give Him the glory for your personal salvation.

**Saturday** -- July 27 (John 5:1-15 review)

Allow me to return to Jesus' question, "Do you want to get well" (v. 6). Are you ready to give Him the glory for all your personal accomplishments? Are you ready to get back onto the highway of life to introduce Jesus to fellow travelers? Instead of making excuses about the way you were born or raised, are you ready to allow God to deal with your sins through the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to become a useful part of your church in giving and serving? Are you anxious to know who Jesus is and where he can be found? If so, you are ready to answer "Yes" to His vital question, "Do you want to get well?"