THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

**DATE: 7/29/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 5:1-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

John's Gospel is different from the others in that his primary goal is Not to give men a historical treatment of the life of Christ

John's purpose is to exalt the person of Jesus so that men believe on Him and be saved,

**John 20:30,31 – *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:” “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name”***

We are looking at Portraits of Jesus in John's gallery as we journey through the Gospel of John

In order to elevate Jesus to the proper level,

John presents Jesus in a new way in every chapter of this book

In chapter 1 we looked at John painting Him as the Word of God

In chapter 2 we saw him painting Him as the Son of Man

In chapter 3 we saw Him painted as the Divine Teacher

In chapter 4 John paints Jesus as the Great Soul Winner

In our text this morning, Jesus is presented to us as …

**“The Great Physician”**

**Some Background**

We know from the context of these chapters that Jesus as traveled from Galilee (**4:54**) to Jerusalem at the time of a feast

(70 miles, about a 3 day journey)

**v. 1 – *“After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem”***

(This was one of the three mandatory feasts that a Jewish Male was to be in Jerusalem for; we are not quite certain which one)

He arrived in Jerusalem near the sheep market where there was a pool

**v. 2 – *“Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches” (***Bethesda means Mercy)

The sheep gate is significant because the lambs used for the sacrifice in the temple were brought into the city through this gate

Now we find “***The Lamb of God”*** standing here, ready to meet the needs of His people

The Bible says in **v. 3 – *“In these*** (the five porches) ***lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water”***

Did you heard how God describes these folks

This is a perfect picture of people without Christ

Everyone without Christ is helpless, sin-sick, impotent, blind, halt, and withered

This scene describes the nation of Israel without their Messiah

The scene describes our world without a Saviour!

Here’s the reason why these people are here

End of **v. 3 – *“waiting for the moving of the water”***

Look @ **vs. 4 – *“For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had”***

These folks were desperate to be healed!

Yet out of this vast crowd, Jesus singles out just one man

The Bible says in **v. 5** - ***“And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years”***

God takes the emphasis from a ***“a great multitude”*** in **v. 3** to a ***“certain man”*** in **v. 5**

That’s a wonderful thought!

Think of the billions of people in the world - ***“a great multitude”*** – yet God is still interested in a ***“certain man”***

He is interested in you, and He is interested in me

**v. 6 – *“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?”***

This is quite a question to ask, is it not?

Notice, He did not ask *“Do you want to be healed?”*

Instead He asked – ***“Wilt thou be made whole?”***

The Lord was speaking of more than just physical healing

He wanted to make this man whole – not just healed, but whole

Someone who is only healed physically, will one day die and end up in hell

Have you ever noticed how much emphasis we place on the physical and not on the spiritual?

Did you ever notice how much emphasis is placed on praying for the sick and how little attention is placed on praying for, and winning the Lost?

We need to be aware of where God places the emphasis!

Problems in our lives, and with other people will never be solved until we resolve the forgiveness issue in each of our lives

Forgiveness from God and with each other

Being made whole by the precious blood of Jesus Christ is the only answer

Let’s pray and Look at John’s Portrait of Jesus as …

**“The Great Physician”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see …

**I. THIS “SICK MAN” – vs. 1-5**

Let’s look at a couple of things about this Sick Man …

First, …

**A. His ‘Condition’ – v. 5**

He ***“had an infirmity”***

**1.** He was *Disabled*

According to the Scriptures, this man had lived with this infirmity for 38 years

He had been sick longer than Jesus had been on the earth!

This word ***“infirmity”*** means that he had some affliction that prevented him from walking

This man was absolutely helpless

There is a greater picture here of mankind’s affliction

This is the condition of every man apart from Jesus Christ

Billions of people are trying to help themselves through some religious ritual or self-help program

But we are all without strength, and there is nothing we can do to help ourselves

Man is separated from God because of their sin

The Bible says in **Romans 5:6** that Christ died for us

***“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly”***

There is nothing someone can do to save themselves

Try as you might …

Man is lost in their weakness, and helplessness

Which, Hopefully, makes them aware of their need for the Saviour

We have no power within ourselves to be made whole

**2.** He was *Desperate*

The very fact that he is here at this pool (in his condition) is proof positive that this man is Desperate for healing

How does he get there every day? Does he just stay there?

Imagine him dragging his broken body toward that pool (pitiful)

Nothing will be done until someone gets Desperate

If you think you can get by, nothing will change

Nothing will change until we see (for ourselves) that nothing is getting done

It’s sad to see, just how few people there are that are Desperate about their spiritual condition

Many live their lives as if they will go on indefinitely

In truth, life is nothing more than a brief pause before a very long eternity

This life is simply a time of preparation

One day, it will end and then it will be too late to do anything about someone’s condition

Please don't be guilty of presuming on tomorrow

Time may just run out

**James 4:14 – *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”***

**Proverbs 27:1 – *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”***

I’m convinced that there are very few people who genuinely believe they are going to Hell when they die

Most, if not all, believe they are going to heaven

(Based on what, though?)

(Most think they are good enough)

But there is only one way to accomplish this; you must come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Saviour

**3.** His *Disappointment*

**v. 7 – *“The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me”***

He tells Jesus that every time he is about to get into the water, someone else beats him to it

Year after year, he has seen his hopes and dreams dashed as someone else is healed

So, we see here a Man in Dire Straights

**B. His ‘Companions’ – v. 3**

Who were no better off …

***“In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water”***

This man was surrounded by others who were in the same shape as he was

They offered him no comfort and they offered him no help

They were as Desperate as he was to be released from their infirmity

Even if these people had been able to help this man get into the pool when the time came,

I’m sure that it would have been every man for himself!

They wouldn't have helped him, because they needed the healing for themselves!

That’s how it is spiritually as well

**SO, WE SEE A “SICK MAN”**

**II. THE “COMPASSIONATE SAVIOUR” – v. 6**

***“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?”***

Jesus is pictured here as the Compassionate Saviour

He is shown doing 3 great things that prove this true

**A. His ‘Choosing’**

According to the Bible's own testimony,

There was a ***“great multitude”*** there that day

The point is, Jesus could have gone to any one of them

Yet for His own reasons, He went to this man

That is nothing but pure Grace!

What a picture of Jesus and His work of salvation

He passes by and knocks on our heart's door

He reaches out to us in love and calls us unto Himself

When the sinner responds in faith

Jesus comes in and works the work of salvation in our hearts

This is a work of Grace and Grace alone!

Why that Place? Why that Man? Why You? Why Me?

Those are things only God can answer

All are called, but far fewer are chosen!

**B. His ‘Caring’**

Jesus knew everything there was to know about this man!

He knew that he was crippled, that he was unable to walk, that he was unable to stand and carry his own bed

Jesus knew that this man was totally dependent upon others for everything he had in life

Most people can’t be bothered with these kind of folks

This man couldn’t do anything for Jesus

Yet, Jesus reached out to him anyway!

Bethesda means *“House of Grace”*

Jesus looks beyond our faults and our failures and cares for us in spite of our sins

-- Isn't it an awesome thought that Jesus knows every lowdown thing about you and I, yet He still loves us?

-- He knows all our evil thoughts, yet He loves us?

-- That He knows we will fail over and over again as the years go by, yet He loves us?

I say Glory to God!

What a testimony of the amazing grace of an Almighty God!

I am so glad that God loves Old Sinners

**Mark 2:17 – *“When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, …***

***… but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”***

**C. His ‘Coming’**

In, what may be, the greatest move of all, Jesus literally comes to where this poor man is lying and reaches out to him in genuine Grace and Love

It’s one thing for Jesus to love us and to do so in spite of our wickedness

However, it is something totally different that He left Heaven and came down to us for salvation

There are 3 ways in which Jesus comes to the sinner

**1.** He Came as a *Sacrifice*

The first time Jesus came, He came to die!

He went to Calvary and gave His life a ransom for sin

When He died on that cross, He took your sin debt upon Himself and paid the price for your redemption

Jesus suffered, bleed and die in your place at Calvary

He became sin for us and suffered the awful wrath of God so that you wouldn't have to

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

He actually Paid for our Salvation

**2.** He’s here today as a *Saviour*

Today, when Jesus comes to the sinner, He comes as Saviour

He comes as One offering eternal life to all who will receive Him

Jesus is here this morning in the presence of the Holy Spirit

He desires more than anything for you to be saved

He knows all there is to know about you and your life,

Yet He still calls you to come to Him

If you will respond in faith, He will not deny you salvation (the key is faith)

**John 6:37 – *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”***

Today He comes to Offer Salvation

**3.** He will come as a *Sovereign*

One day, He’s Promised to Come again

If someone won’t respond to the Gospel Message today

He will find himself facing Jesus as judge Tomorrow

The same Jesus who has the power to save you today, will one day have the power to sentence you to the lake of fire

**Revelation 20:11-15 …**

If Jesus is not received as Saviour, He will be face as Judge

**John 5:22 – *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”***

Please do not presume upon the grace and goodness of God

If anything, take this opportunity from God to come to Him for salvation

**A “SICK MAN”**

**A “COMPASSIONATE SAVIOUR”**

**III. A “STRIKING MIRACLE” – vs. 6 b – 9**

First, let’s look at …

**A. The ‘Offer’ (before the Miracle)**

**End of v. 6 - *“Wilt thou be made whole?”***

Jesus asks the man if he would like to be healed

The man responds by appealing to the flesh and tells Jesus that he has no one to help him into the pool

This man is guilty of the same thing that so many others are guilty of,

He is confusing the physical with the spiritual

This man does not realize Who it is that is making the offer

Even today, Jesus comes to the lost sinner and makes an offer of salvation

The common responses are, I am not good enough, I can't hold out, I have been too wicked, It won't work for me, and so on

The problem is that sinners are looking for a physical solution to a spiritual problem

The sinner needs to be saved! To be made Whole

That is something that no man can do for himself!

It takes the power of God, the conviction of the Spirit and the blood of Jesus to accomplish this

If Jesus is calling you to come to Him, then don’t tarry,

Obey and come to the Lord for salvation

**B. The ‘Order’ (to complete the Miracle)**

Notice the Command here **…**

**v. 8 – *“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”***

Jesus tells the man to get up and walk

Jesus just told this man to do something that he hasn't been able to do in 38 years, if ever

To me, this is a pretty incredible command!

However, all that was required on the part of this man was obedience to the call of Jesus

We see just how Desperate he is

He obeys the command of a complete stranger

We are conditioned to make our own way in the world

We are taught to stand on our own two feet

I believe that we need a dose of child-like Faith

**Mark 10:15 – *“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein”***

**C. The ‘Outpouring’ (the results of the Miracle)**

**v. 9 a – *“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked:”***

When this man responded to Jesus' command by faith,

He was immediately healed and he was able to get up and walk

This miracle required no input from the crippled man,

All he had to do was to try and get up and walk at the command of Christ

Jesus has the power to take any life that is broken and ruined by sin and make it over again

He is all-powerful, all-saving and awesome!

He will lift you out of the affliction of your sins if you will only come to Him when He calls

Just Believe and come

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus demonstrates His power as the Great Physician by healing this man's body

However, there is no indication that this man ever became a believer in Jesus - **vs. 10-15 …**

What a sad thing to come face to face with Jesus, and experience His power and never do any more with it

How Sad!

You see, the most important thing to remember about Jesus (as The Great Physician) is not that He can heal the body, but that He can heal the soul!

If he heals the body, that is wonderful, but eventually, the body will still perish

However, what Jesus does for the soul is eternal

Are you saved today?

Maybe, the truth is, the Lord has been dealing with you and you know you need to come to Jesus

Why put it off any longer?

While He is passing by, take the time to come to Him this morning

He will save you from sin and deliver you from Hell

And that, after all, is what you really want and need

**A “SICK MAN”**

**A “COMPASSIONATE SAVIOUR”**

**A “STRIKING MIRACLE”**