

A MAN IN NEED OF A MIRACLE

John 5.1-18

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The Bible describes salvation as a miracle...the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son described his son's salvation in these terms...*Luke 15:24 (NKJV)* "for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."
- b. Paul described salvation like this...*Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)* "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."
- c. Every Christian has experienced the miracle of salvation...the miracle of a spiritually dead person...being made alive through the saving power and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. There are many believers who can testify of how the Lord...has performed other miracles in their life.
- e. Some could testify of a miracle...in their health...or in their family...or in their finances.
- f. God may allow you to face a desperate problem one day...so He can do a miracle in your life...as a demonstration to yourself and to others of His power and grace.
- g. There are seven miracles recorded in the gospel of John...this is the third of those seven...and as with the others it is a miracle with a message.

II. THE PITIFUL CONDITION OF THIS MAN-

- a. John says that the man in this incident...had been sick with a debilitating disease for 38 years.
- b. This man was a part of a great number of the sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people ...who daily congregated around a pool of water in Jerusalem called Bethesda...which means "house of mercy."
- c. The five porches or terraces that surrounded this pool...had become a gathering place for the sick because it was believed that at times...an angel would stir the water...and the first one in the water after the water was stirred would be healed.
- d. What a heartbreaking scene of misery this must have been!

- e. John described the miracles he recorded in his gospel as “signs”...in other words there was a message in each one of these miracles that John recorded...what is the message of this miracle?
- f. The miserable physical condition of this man and his companions...represents the miserable spiritual condition...of every unsaved person without Christ.
- g. Even the most powerful, wealthy, attractive, and successful person in the world who is unsaved...is spiritually bankrupt, destitute, sin-diseased and separated from God.
- h. To quote Revelation 3:17...though an unsaved person may appear to “have need of nothing...they do not know how spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked they really are.”
- i. The story of the angel stirring the waters was a superstition and a false hope...it represents the false hope that many people have of going to heaven.
- j. Many unsaved people are trusting in the false hope of their goodness or good works to save them...many are trusting in their church membership...or their religious involvement and activity.
- k. Others are trusting in a false Christianity or a false religion...some are trusting and hoping that God will accept them in spite of their refusal to repent of their sin...and in spite of the fact that they leave God out of their life.
- l. As this man and his companions clung to the false hope that they could be healed by the stirring of the waters...so many unsaved people cling to a false hope of going to heaven.
- m. Receiving Jesus Christ a Savior and Lord is the unsaved person’s only hope...of being healed and of being saved from their lostness and their miserable spiritual condition.

III. THE POWERFUL CHANGE IN THIS MAN-

- a. Notice that Jesus took the initiative and sought this man out...this man did not reach out to Jesus...Jesus reached out to him.
- b. It is God who takes the initiative in salvation...*Luke 19:10 (NKJV) “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” ...Romans 3:11 (NKJV) “...There is none who seeks after God.”*

- c. The only reason a person begins to seek after God...is because God is seeking after them.
- d. Jesus went to this man and asked him...*"Do you want to be made well?"*
- e. Jesus doesn't force Himself on anybody...it is clear from scripture that God is sovereign in salvation...but it is also clear from the Bible that God has given every person the freedom to accept Him or reject Him...how those two truths mix I don't know...but they are both taught in the Bible!
- f. The question every lost person must answer is...*"Do you want to be saved?"*
- g. If a person does not want to be saved there are not enough angels in Heaven to drag them to Jesus...but if a person wants to be saved there are not enough demons in Hell to stop them...it is their choice.
- h. This man was still clinging to the false hope of the angel stirring the water when Jesus told him...*John 5:8-9 (NKJV) "...Rise, take up your bed and walk. And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked."*
- i. The moment a person repents of their sin and receives Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord...they are saved and changed "immediately."
- j. This man was changed immediately...**His body was changed**...he was healed.
- k. **His behavior changed**...he immediately went to the Temple to worship...you don't have to beg someone who has been truly saved to worship God...or go to church.
- l. **His boldness changed**...this man boldly witnessed for Christ...even when the "holier than thou crowd" ignored the change Jesus had made in his life...and attacked him for breaking their man-made Sabbath rules.

IV. CONCLUSION-

- a. "Do you want to be saved?"...repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord...and He will save you and change you immediately.
- b. Immediately you will be redeemed...and made a child of God.