

WHOLENESS OR EXCUSES JOHN 5:1-15

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1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. 2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. 3 Crowds of sick people -- blind, lame, or paralyzed -- lay on the porches. 4 * [No text] 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him and knew how long he had been ill, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?" 7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get there, someone else always gets in ahead of me." 8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your sleeping mat, and walk!" 9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up the mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath day. 10 So the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! It's illegal to carry that sleeping mat!" 11 He replied, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Pick up your sleeping mat and walk.'" 12 "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded. 13 The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. 14 But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." 15 Then the man went to find the Jewish leaders and told them it was Jesus who had healed him.

4 things to learn from the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda:

You can be healthy but not whole. You can be sick and wholly trusting in God. The variable is health. The constant is reliance on God.

We can't hold on to our excuses and take hold of our wholeness at the same time.

THE PATH TO WHOLENESS

1. Let go of your excuse. -> 2. Move forward in obedience. -> 3. Trust God for the results.

Resolve: I can do more in God's power lame than I can healthy and on my own. No matter what, I want to walk in His power.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13

12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

NEXT STEPS: memorize Phil 4:13

I am letting go of my excuse to walk in wholeness today!

I choose to walk in wholeness NOW regardless of my circumstance.