

Refrigerator Notes 01 May 2016
Do You Want to Be Free Of Your Infirmities?
John 5. 1-9

1. We know, see and have heard of people who are beggars, and the list of things that they want cause them no shame
2. In our scripture lesson, there is a man who has been sick or paralyzed for 38 years, the only thing this man wants is to be healed
3. However, there is one problem, there he lies on a mat in front of the pool of Bethesda, and scripture states that when the waters are stirred, the first in the pool will be healed (John 5 4 KJB)
4. In any event, the Pool at Bethesda was famous for its healing powers.
5. There are a number of interesting things about the scripture this morning, which the scriptures don't fully explain. Jesus inquires of a man's illness and how long he has been at the pool, although there are others who are coming to the pool for healing, no one knows for certain how often or infrequently the waters are stirred, and Jesus does not perform a miracle on everyone, but he selectively chose one man (no reason why, except for those to believe that Jesus was the Messiah)
6. Of interest, this man who was healed did not know Jesus, undoubtedly, it was the helplessness of this man that drew Jesus near to him.
7. Then Jesus asked the man a simple question — "Do you want to get well?"
8. Instead of the man simply answering the question in the affirmative (yes), he begins to tell Jesus, why he cannot be healed?
9. Like many of our beggars, their solution is simple, beg for what they need. Like many of us, we allow our infirmities to control our lives.
10. Sometimes God will shipwreck our plans, to keep us from being shipwrecked! Even though God is willing to heal us, we are not willing to listen and follow His instructions.
11. Because we are spiritually sick people, or just because we are near a place of healing, does not necessarily mean we want to be made well. We may attend church regularly, but choose to remain sinful and ignore God's word.
12. God is capable of freeing us of our infirmities, but we have become too comfortable in our sins, that we choose sin over God
13. We all can see ourselves, in a sense, helpless, weak, crippled and lame, lying at the pool of Bethesda like this man, because of the bed of sins we have created for ourselves
14. If we want to be helped, then you got to decide to do what Jesus tells you to do?
15. Being obedient to the Word of God is where we should start, the man simply does what Jesus instructs him to do without Questioning Jesus!
16. We must learn to act on what God is instructing us to do, allowing our faith to transform us into action
17. The last thing "walk." Do not expect to be carried -- walk. Many people want to be carried after they are healed.
18. Paul puts this in a wonderful verse that everybody should remember. "Be not deceived [don't kid yourself], God is not mocked." (Galatians 6 7 KJV). "For he who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption [injury, hurt, damage, heartache and sorrow will all come, because God reads hearts], but he that sows to the Spirit shall reap life [vitality, peace, love, joy, those good things that keep us whole]." (Galatians 6 8 RSV).
19. Our Lord raises a lamp of warning even here, even being healed by Jesus will not guarantee you that you will not have your problem(s) to return. "Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you."
20. I believe God is waiting for each and every one of us to demonstrate His miracle power in our lives by picking up our mats and walking!