

Do You Want To Be Made Well?

Introduction. In the KJV, there are 3,298 questions. But the one we will concentrate on today is one of the deepest, darkest, and most probing of all questions. It is a disturbing question and it gets right down inside of us — to the heart of it all.

In John 5:1-8, John records that Jesus did not go to the temple; He went to the pool of Bethesda — a pool of healing. He encountered a man who had an infirmity 38 years. This man would have been at the pool a lot over his lifetime to get some sort of relief for his infirmity.

He asked the question, "Do you want to be made well?" (NKJV). This is a surprising question. He's been this way 38 years! The answer is obvious!

Jesus could have just put him in the water or touched him and he would have been well. He could have even just spoke to him. But He asked the question and the man didn't respond in the affirmative. The man answered by saying that he can't get into the water. There's nobody to help me. Someone always gets there before me. It's hard to criticize the man after 38 years. He may have been incredibly hopeless at this point. He's satisfied that this is the way his life will be from now on.

There are a lot of people who want to be made well, but they're not willing to do what's necessary to make it happen. They keep doing what brought the condition on in the first place. They may enjoy the attention or they may love basking in the feeling of practicing evil or they may just not care enough.

I don't know what's going on in your home, in your work, or in your body. But I do know the Lord asked the question and I know we can put being a victim behind us forever and stop blaming somebody else.

Jesus told the man, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." Get up, don't leave anything behind, like your excuses and fears, and walk. Go forward and do what you can. The devil wants us to stay confined to our bed — he knows that we will become victims of our own mentality.

Not everyone is willing to accept the responsibility that comes along with being made well. Taking up that bed serves as a reminder of what we came from and reminds us of the resolve to never go back (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)! Jesus gave him wholeness — including the ability to care for himself — and to be responsible for what happens to him in his life. Do you want to be made well in the following areas?

I. Do You Want To Be Made Well In Your Spirituality?

- A. On one hand, I have seen people with virtually no spirituality to them at all; even their funerals are devoid of any evidence that they were Christians. On the other hand, people have told me, "I wish you would've known Brother/Sister So-and-So. I wish I was as spiritual as they were."
- B. You have to work to achieve spirituality (Romans 2:29; 8:5; 1 Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:15). "Think on these things" in Philippians 4:8 and "Set your affection" in Colossians 3:1-2 are intentional activities.
- C. You've got to spend more time in the Bible and with spiritual people than you do at the ball field, or the television, or the workplace, or the textbook. If you give excuses, then you're not serious yet.

II. Do You Want To Be Made Well In Your Marriage?

- A. There are lots of people who put on their happy face like their Sunday clothes and in reality their homes are a mess. There's hatred, bitterness, resentment, neglect, and even abuse. They hear sermon after sermon and there's never anything done. Do you want to be made well?
- B. Marriage is good because it's not good for man to be alone (Hebrews 13:4; Genesis 2:18). Couples want their marriages to be better but don't want to work to make them better. Most of the time we're not applying what God is teaching.
 - 1. Husbands, get in tune with what Ephesians 5:25 says and love your wives like Christ loved the church.
 - 2. Wives, as a result of his love that's shown, respect and admire your husbands and your home will improve (Ephesians 5:22, 33).
 - 3. Both of you can start in Ephesians 4 and work your way into chapter 5 (Ephesians 4:25-32). Be a Christian!
- C. Everyone thinks it's the other's fault. It takes a lot of humility to accept that you've been wrong in a marriage (Proverbs 12:15).

III. Do You Want To Be Made Well In Your Children's Devotion?

- A. Coming to Bible study and making sure they're sitting in a worship assembly unfortunately isn't going to get the job done.
- B. From a child Timothy had a godly family and they intentionally instilled in that young man's heart a love for God and His word (2 Timothy 3:15).
- C. It's a real effort to do this (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). When they get up and when they go to bed, they need to hear about God and spiritual pursuits. I know you've got other interests, but as a parent you've got to make sure they are being impressed with belief in God. This takes parents like John's (Luke 1:6).

IV. Do You Want To Be Made Well In Your Morality?

- A. Being morally pure means putting sin to death (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:5). Our bodies are now temples (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
- B. So many Christians struggle with issues that can be overcome such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, language, and pornography.
 - 1. Do you really want it to stop? Do you really want to quit? People know they need to quit and they wish they had never started.
 - 2. Stopping is not easy; there's no magic elixir. The power to stop comes from the resolve we have within that's produced by the gospel (Philippians 4:13; Romans 1:16).
 - 3. If you really want it to stop, there are actions you can take to make it stop. The question is not what can I do, but do I really want to quit?
 - 4. Give up the mastery of wickedness (1 Corinthians 6:12) and let Jesus have control of your heart and your mind (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

V. Do You Want To Be Made Well In Your Salvation?

- A. When the rich young ruler came to Jesus in Matthew 19:16-20, He told him what to do — and he walked away. Some don't want salvation at that price. Do you really want to be saved?

B. Everybody who claims they want to be saved may really not. They have to break family ties and leave jobs. There's a cost and a price (Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 14:26-33). Do you really want to leave your old life, becoming a "new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17) and "walk(ing) in newness of life" (Romans 6:4)? If so, rise, take up your bed, and walk.

Conclusion. How long have you been lying there waiting for someone to come along and rescue you? Do you want to be made well?

Repentance means that you change your direction (Matthew 21:28-29). If you really want to be made well in all these areas, you're going to have to rise, take up your bed, and walk. Jesus says, "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28). Jesus changes us from being victims to victors (Romans 8:37)!

Converted people will be found doing converted actions (John 5:14). If I have been made well, it will be shown by what I do. Jesus did not find him in the midst of all the other cripples. He found him in the temple.