

The Pool of Bethesda



John 5:1-3

"Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is a pool in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here, a significant number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed."

Why did the sick gather at the Pool of Bethesda? They were waiting for the angels of God to come down and stir the Pool. According to the legend, it says that the first person who entered the Pool is healed. It was for only one person. How big was the Pool? It was the size of a football stadium.

Imagine many disabled people there; the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. If your sickness is severe, the probability of entering the Pool is almost nothing. For those gathered, Bethesda was the place of despair, not the area of hope. Open your senses and walk around the Pool. What do you see? What do you smell? Would it be fragrant and beautiful? They were isolated from each other, by competition and tension, depressed with sickness, suffering from disability, pain, and fear of death. Bethesda was a world where, except for one person, all the rest of the people became losers. It is a world also where the false logic of life deceives the only person who wins.

Might you remember the story *Hope for the flower*? It is a caterpillar story, which is like the story of the Pool of Bethesda. One day a yellow caterpillar finds that all caterpillars crawl in one direction. Their goal was to reach the high column rising high into the air. The column was a pile of squirming, pushing caterpillars. They all wanted to reach the top. They all thought the top of the column must be fabulous. But nothing was visible because the cloud hid the top. Finally, the yellow gave up on climbing and found an ugly old caterpillar that was prepared to be a butterfly.

The old caterpillar explains to the yellow what a butterfly is. He said, "It is what you are meant to become. It flies with beautiful wings and joins the Earth with Heaven. You will give hope to the flowers because, without us, all flowers will disappear."

Where do you think you are?

1. Are you crawling to reach the top?
2. Are you turning your way downwards?
3. Are you tired of living like a caterpillar, so you decided to die in the cocoon?
4. Are you a molten dead caterpillar inside the cocoon waiting for wings to fly?
5. Are you a confused caterpillar that thinks you are flying but climbing up the column?
6. Are you flying to join the Earth with Heaven?

Wherever you are, welcome Jesus, and let Him be the center of your heart, not the center of your mind as many people do. Jesus will whisper to you and heal you. Jesus will let you know who you indeed are. Then, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit will guide you. Enjoy the process of accompanying with the Holy Spirit walking one step at a time. God enjoys you and loves you passionately even with all the mistakes you make. Enjoy God! What God has started, God will fulfill. He promised!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Hae-Jeong