

“Rise Up and Walk”

John 5: 1 – 9

In the scripture we are told of a man who was sick and needy for thirty-eight years, Jesus came to town and after seeing the man, Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. The man replied, “I have no one to help me.” Jesus said, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” The man had his health restored, his life was transformed and he later testified to the power of Jesus. We will take a closer look at this invalid and how his situation could have implications in our lives today.

1. **The Condition of the Man.**(A). He was helpless. He could do very little if anything for himself. Especially in the spiritual realm we are no different as Jesus says in the latter part of (John 15: 5), “apart from me you can do nothing.” Our ability to do anything comes through Christ’s strength in us. (B). He was hopeless. After thirty-eight years this man probably had no hope of ever having a normal life. And in like fashion, a person without Christ has no hope for the future apart from the grave and hell. Any hope we have is in Christ and that hope is indeed steadfast and sure. (C). He was friendless. He said I have no one. What a terrible situation to be alone with no one to help. Jesus arrives and he is the friend of the friendless. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Someone has said, “Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.”
2. **The Coming of the Savior.** Jesus sees the man and learns of his condition and becomes involved as he asks the man, “Do you want to get well?” Jesus always has our best in mind and is willing to help. The man said he had no one to help him into the pool because he was looking for the pool to heal him. Now the physician is standing before him wanting to heal him. People yet today look many places for help and healing, but we are told in (Acts 4:12), “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” All we can do, all we are called upon to do is, “call on the name of the Lord and we will be saved.”
3. **The Command of Christ.** “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” The man had a choice to make; do I get up and walk or do I tell Jesus I can’t walk because I never have. The man chose to believe Jesus and he was cured. The same is true for us today. If Jesus has saved

us, we ought to believe him and be obedient to his command. What is he calling upon us to do? Well, I believe he calls us to: (1). Rise up and walk in open confession of him. This helpless, hopeless, friendless man acknowledged that it was Jesus who healed him. Jesus said in (Matthew 10:32), "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." and also the Apostle Paul says in (Romans 10:11), "Everyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." (2). Rise up and walk in faithful relationship with the church. Great benefit if all professing believers come together to do the Lord's work. An American soldier, during the war came upon a ruined church in Germany and he found fragments of a statue of Christ. He put it together as best he could but there were no hands. The reality of this is that he has no hands but our hands to do his work today. (3). Rise up and walk as consecrated Christians in communion with Christ. Prayer and Bible study are the secret sources of power and fruit bearing. When we would enter heaven, we will lay our fruit and trophies at Jesus' feet. As we walk with him in service, true happiness will be found. (4). Rise up and walk through gates of glory. Because Christ lives, we shall live also and Jesus said there would be a place prepared. The toils, cares, worry, trials and such will all be over. As a pastor wiped the tears of a young man who was dying, the young man said, 'Next time my tears are wiped away my heavenly Father will do it.' What a wonderful prospect for all who believe.

Will you rise up and walk? If you do, be like the lame man, be made whole.

Pastor Garry Culler