

Do you want to get well? John 5:3-9

Most of us have warning lights in the dash of our cars that light up to indicate trouble under the hood. If a warning light does come on in your car, changing the dash light bulb doesn't solve the problem...getting mad at the light or ignoring the light doesn't help either and certainly not covering it with a piece of black tape. The problem is actually much deeper. Something under the hood is not functioning properly. That is, the light that you *can* see is indicative of problems you *cannot* see.

We see a similar situation in John chapter 5 in the story of a lame man who laid by the pool at Bethesda, waiting for the angel to come stir the water, and for someone to place him in the pool in the hope that he might be healed. He was convinced that the source of his healing was in the water of the pool, but because he was lame, he was not able to get into the pool, leaving him stranded and perpetually sick.

Maybe you are feeling perpetually sick right now. Or broken. Or disconnected. COVID-19 restrictions have placed many in this difficult position. But Jesus wants you to stop looking at the circumstances and start looking at Him.

Your circumstances are like that indicator light in your car; they simply exist to make you aware that you need to fix a deeper problem. The man at the pool didn't need the water of the pool to solve his problems; he needed an encounter with the Living water, Jesus!

In verse 6 of John chapter 5, Jesus asks the man a question. He asked, "Do you *want* to get well?" The man replied with all the reasons why he couldn't get well. After all, he had been waiting there for 38 years and his situation was not changing.

Are we answering that question *today* with our own excuses of why we *can't* be healed? Why we can't move forward. We're so close, but something always gets in the way.

Do you **want** to get well?

What does that look like for you? For our church? For our community?

What needs to change? What warning light have you been ignoring?

Jesus answered the man's excuses in verse 8 with "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." And the man did. His encounter with Jesus healed decades of being perpetually sick. Jesus addressed and healed the man's spiritual condition and changed his physical circumstances. His experience with Christ, the Living Water, allowed him to pick up the mat and WALK!.

It is our prayer today that however God is revealing Himself to you---through His Word, worship or prayer---that you experience His authority and power to move forward in your circumstance and see Him worthy of your devotion and praise. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and watch the problems in your life grow strangely dim as He provides for your every need and you grow in the light of His glory and grace...immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

---The Prayer Team