

“Sin No More, Lest a Worse Thing Come unto Thee”

John 5

It should be clear to any student of the Bible, which all men, women, boys, and girls should be, that the greatest danger to every living person is sin. We read in our scripture portion today of Jesus healing an individual of a physical ailment, disease, or disability. That was truly wonderful. And yet, the greatest need of every person is not the removal of sickness, injury, or bodily or mental weakness, but the removal and cleansing and healing from the awful plague of sin. Solomon referred to sin in this way, “.. *which shall know every man the plague of his own heart,*” (*I Kings 8:38*). He was referring to those who in prayer and supplication sought after God and God’s house, and the issue which moved them to seek God and turn their attention to God’s house was that they knew that their heart was plagued, plagued with the most awful and dreadful and ruinous plague that has ever been, the plague of sin.

We find that things are no different in this present hour and generation than they were in the days when Jesus walked the earth some two thousand or so years ago, tabernacling among men, the Living Word made flesh. We see John recording that great multitude of sick and injured and weak folk, all gathered around the pool of Bethesda, which name means “house of mercy”. It is mercy that people need, they need the mercy of God, like the publican in the parable on prayer cried, “*God be merciful to me a sinner,*” (*Luke 18:13*). Remember the point of that parable? “*He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others,*” (*Luke 18:9*). That has not changed, beloved. People still trust in themselves that they are righteous, and despise others. They look upon themselves and judge themselves approved of God; but God has not approved them. God approves of His Son Jesus Christ, and only by coming to God through Him can any of us foul, vile, weak, worthless, incapable, unwilling sinners be justified in God’s sight. I do not say that in an accusing way. I don’t accuse anyone. Jesus did not accuse anyone. He said that the one that accuses men is the Word of God, the scriptures. You say, “Well, I don’t understand that.” It’s very simple, my friends. If a person were to post a sign along a fence, or along a roadway, or next to a body

of water, or in front of some high voltage wires, or anywhere else, and that sign gave both instructions and warnings to people, and they were to ignore that sign and the message that it conveyed, then they would be accused by that sign when they were held accountable for whatsoever harm or damage came about because they ignored that sign, would they not? God has placed signs in nature, in men's own hearts in their consciences; and He has posted the greatest sign of all, His own words, *"the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus,"* (II Tim. 3:15).

It should be obvious from our scripture text that Jesus did not come to this earth to merely rid people of earthly diseases and disabilities. He had the power to do that. He still has the power to do that. One day He will rid the earth of all diseases and disabilities, when He makes all things new. And yet, the reason there will be no more diseases and disabilities, and no more death, is because that which is behind all of these things will have also been removed and eradicated, and that is sin. Did He not talk about being *"passed from death unto life,"* (vs. 24) through faith in Him? Did He not say that in a coming hour *"all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and come forth,"* (vs. 28,29)? We learn from the scriptures that all of the miraculous mighty works that Jesus performed and which are recorded in the scriptures were to this end, *"that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name,"* (John 20:31). You don't merely need to be healed of and rid of bodily and mental weaknesses and pains, you need to be saved from death, eternal death, and the pains and sorrows of the lake of fire forever and forever, to which you will come on account of the plague of your heart, your sins and your sinful nature.

Jesus said to this man, *"Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."* He had sinned up to that point in his life. So have all people, beloved. There is no use in denying that, even though all people do deny it. As we already noted, they justify themselves in their own wicked, sin-blinded, self-loving, God-and-God's-Word-hating hearts. It was on account of sins that Jesus came into the world. *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief,"* (I Tim. 1:15). *"Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself,"* (Heb. 9:26). Jesus is the Lamb of God who taketh

away the sin of the world. He is the sin remover, and the healer of sinners who come to God by Him.

Many today want to be healed of various things. They want to be healed of bodily sicknesses and injuries. They want to be healed of worry and fear. They want to be healed, so to speak, of their past marital and financial mistakes. They want to have a better earthly life. The best earthly life will not matter if you leave this life and go to a devil's hell. You need to flee the wrath to come. You need to be saved from that which is separating you from the God who made you and who gives to you life, breath, and all things. You need to be transformed from being allied to the false god of this world, who is none other than the devil, and be made a child of the living and true God. You need a new heart that is no longer plagued with sin, but in and upon which the Holy Spirit of God writes the laws and commandments of the true and living God, and fills with the knowledge of the love of God.

You see, Jesus told this man that if he did not cease from sin, then a worse thing would come upon him. Do you know what that worse thing is? It is to die in sins and go to a devil's hell. It is to remain far off from God, in the darkness and blindness and unbelief of a heart that is plagued with the most awful plague that has ever plagued humanity, the plague of sin, which is born of unbelief and disobedience toward God. You cannot enter the everlasting kingdom of God as long as you retain your sins and your sinful heart and mind. **I Cor. 6:9-11 II Tim. 3:1-5**

You and I without Christ are like that impotent man, when he said, "***Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool,***" (vs. 7). He had no one to help him. There is no one to help you and heal you from your sin except Jesus Christ.