

Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?

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John 5:1-9 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

- I. When I see a passage in the Bible that is attacked, criticized, and removed from all the other “newer versions” I am inclined to believe that there is something very special and important there.
 - A. This passage is changed, watered down in its language and parts are completely removed in other so called “versions” of the Bible.
 - B. In particular the words “made whole” are changed to “healed” or “well.”
 - C. The reference to an angel troubling the waters is removed, even though angels are mentioned throughout the Bible and are the messengers of God, and are sent to do miraculous things at times.
 - D. Verse 14 in the NIV states: Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”
 1. This, in spite of the fact that none of the “newer version” crowd does not believe anyone can “stop sinning.”
 - E. So as you can tell what a man is by who his enemies are, you can also look for special truth and blessing in those verses and words that the devil makes a special effort to remove from the Word of God.
- II. Why should we stumble at the fact that an angel came down at a certain season to trouble the water?
 - A. Isn't that a fact of life that is common knowledge to all who know God and are involved in this spiritual conflict?
 - B. An angel is literally a “messenger;” Strong's defines an angel as

a messenger; especially an "angel"; by implication, a pastor

1. Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines angel as:

1. Literally, a messenger; one employed to communicate news or information from one person to another at a distance. But appropriately,

2. A spirit, or a spiritual intelligent being employed by God to communicate his will to man. Hence angels are ministers of God, and ministering spirits. Heb. 1.

3. A minister of the gospel, who is an ambassador of God. Rev. 2 and 3.

- C. Why would they take this part out of the Bible when people have always, and still do, go to springs of water for health reasons?
- D. Why would they take the part about an angel's involvement in it out of the Scripture when angels are one of the most popular symbols and objects of fascination for worldly unsaved people now?
- E. The reason is because the devil does not want us to get the important truths and lessons of hope that are so clear in this day of Jesus' life on earth.
- F. Also, the Bible assures us that we encounter angels much more than we realize.

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- 1. We expect a man when he preaches to have a "message" do we not?
- 2. We have all received messages from God by way of the lips of other people in our lives.
- G. So we should not stumble at verse 4 and take it out of the Bible because we somehow think of it as some kind of superstitious fairy tale.

III. The man was a portrait of hopelessness.

- A. He had this infirmity for a long, long time; 38 years the Bible tells us here.
 - 1. The passing of such a long time robs a soul and spirit of hope.
- B. He had no man, no one to help him; he was absolutely alone in his hopeless condition.
 - 1. He was down and could not get up by himself, and no one else could, or would help him.
- C. He was more than "ill" as some of the other versions say; he was not whole.
 - 1. There is a great difference in "Do you want to be well?" and "Wilt thou be made whole?"
 - 2. He was missing something that made him a whole man, and it was not his infirmity, but the lack of God in his life.
- D. He had never heard the voice of God before this day, and if He had, he had not paid any attention.
 - 1. His only hope was in that troubled water. (v.7)
 - 2. Like the woman at the well; like Nicodemus and his religion; this man also had to come to realize that his hope had to be in Christ alone.
- E. People without hope immerse themselves in the troubled waters of their life, or the lives of others.
 - 1. It is the theme of the world's songs.
 - 2. It is the plot of all their movies and novels.
 - 3. It is what fuels social media now.
 - 4. It is the daily subject of all the news and media.
 - 5. We need to quit lying there by the pool with all that great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the water to be troubled.
 - 6. Our hope must be something different than theirs or we are one of them.
- F. The salvation of this man happened when he got up and walked away from the troubled waters.
 - 1. He did not have to get into the water to be made whole.
 - 2. He was "made whole" by Jesus who commanded him to "rise up, take up thy bed, and walk."
- G. This is one of those instances when Jesus did not continue to reason with the person, but ignored their ignorance and helplessness and simply made them whole without them directly asking him to.

John 5:6-8 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.**

1. While the man was still helplessly clinging to the hope of being put into the water for his deliverance, Jesus changed his life, instantly, and miraculously.
- H. He can still do the same for you today.
- I. This man had a divine appointment that was 38 years in coming.
- J. Jesus did not just pick him out of the crowd that day arbitrarily and give him a miracle because he drew the winning number.
- K. Like all works of God,, this one was a long time in the incubator of sorrow, suffering, and loss from a life that was not whole.
- L. Until we come to the realization that without God we are not whole, we will not seek him, but will just continue to keep our eyes on the troubled waters before us.
- M. The instant we are made whole we will rise up and walk away from the things that trouble the lives of people who have no God.

Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

Psalm 46:1-5 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.