

True Desire – John 5

It started as an average day. Healthy people walked to and fro while the sick and crippled begged. Most were ignored by the busy hustle and bustle of everyday life. The healthy were seeking relief from the pressures of the daily grind, the search for a job, the need for money for food, the concern of the occupying Roman army. Others were pretty satisfied with their lot in life. The lame and the sick were much the same. Some were content to beg – not too bad a life to visit with friends and not be expected to work.

Enter Jesus! He is Jesus. He knows the man's plight. He knows the man's heart but He asks a probing question, "Do you wish to get well?" Is it an unfeeling question? It seems so, but the One asking is our loving Lord.

Is it a challenge to the man's own man's own view of his life? Absolutely. The story is simple. The outcome is astounding. "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." And he does! In verse 14 they meet again and Jesus says, "Behold you have become well; do not sin anymore so that nothing worse happens to you."

Jesus knew his heart, yet he asked, "Do you wish to get well?" Perhaps God wanted all of us to see the interchange. Many today are hurting, confused and emotionally ill. But that question rings in our ears today, "Do you wish to get well?" In our "please accept me" society, sometimes we don't wish to get well. It is easier to be accepted, to go along with the crowd, to not risk rejection.

It's not an unfeeling question. In fact, each one of us must ask the one in the mirror, "Do you wish to get well?" (John 5:1-14). He was transformed by the renewing of his body.

We must get well by the renewing of our minds. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect," Romans 12:1-2. Jesus called to the lame man about his body. He calls to us about our mind, our heart and our spirit. Is today ***your average day?*** His blessings await. Love calls and love must answer.

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