

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eleven

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (6): HEALING THE IMPOTENT MAN

Burden to Impart:

All men, like this poor, wretched, impotent man, are weak and unable to keep God's law. We cannot work up our own strength to save ourselves, and we do not need to wait for some angel to come and work a miracle for us. We only need to believe in the Lord Jesus who has come to us to save us, and receive His life-giving Word.

Memory Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works that no man should boast"
(Ephesians 2:8-9).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 5:1-16]

1. God's people, the Jews, were celebrating a religious feast in their capitol, Jerusalem. All of the people were required by the law of Moses to keep such feasts in order to honor God and His holy law. In John chapter five, however, we see a whole multitude of people who had no way to rejoice or keep the feast of God's law. Even if they wanted to, it was impossible because they were sick, blind, lame, and withered.

2. There was a certain pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda. An angel of the Lord would come on special occasions to stir up the water. Whoever first stepped into the water would then be healed of whatever disease he suffered from.

3. For all of the people with incurable diseases there was only one hope: a miracle. But in order to get the miracle they must be strong enough and fast enough to get into the stirred up water first!

4. One poor, wretched man had laid beside the pool for 38 years. He was impotent, extremely weak. He could not even walk or move himself. He needed others to carry or drag him around. He was so hopeless and helpless that he didn't even qualify for a miracle, for he could not even move himself to the pool when the waters were stirred.

5. When Jesus came to Jerusalem He did not go to the feasting, joyful people. He went to the pool of Bethesda, to the wretched, sad people who were too sick and weak to keep God's law. There Jesus saw the man who had been laying for thirty-eight years and asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

6. Surely he did. He would like to be well, he would like to celebrate the feast, he would like to do good and keep God's law, but it seemed impossible! He was too weak to help himself and he

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Lesson Eleven (Continued)

had no one else to help him into the water to get the healing miracle. (He hoped that maybe Jesus would help him into the water when it was stirred.) So, it seemed he needed a miracle so he could get the miracle.

7. Not so, however! He needed no strength, no man to put him into the water, no angel, no miracle, nothing! He only needed Jesus, and Jesus had already come to heal him.

8. Jesus commanded him to rise, pick up his bed, and walk. Instantly he was healed and did so. It was the Sabbath day, when all people were supposed to rest and do no work at all, not even carry their small cot-beds. He obeyed Jesus, his Lord. For him to carry his bed and walk was not work, it was the greatest joy he ever had in his life! Now he was healed, strong, restful, happy, and even joyful! He was truly keeping the Sabbath. He was truly keeping the feast.

9. All men, like the impotent man, are weak and unable to keep God's law. We always fail in at least one commandment. To fail in one commandment is to fail completely (James 2:10). Christ, however, has come to us and has made no requirements upon us for salvation that demand our strength. He only requires us to believe in Him and to receive His life-giving Word. Then we can be healed, saved, strengthened, and walk rejoicingly before God.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON ELEVEN

1. What was the special occasion in Jerusalem when the impotent man was healed? (John 5:1)
2. Where was a multitude of people who could not join in on the occasion? (John 5:2)
3. Why could they not join in on the occasion? (John 5:3)
4. What would happen at special times at the pool? (John 5:4)
5. How many years did the impotent man lay beside the pool? (John 5:5)
6. What did Jesus say to the impotent man? (John 5:6)
7. What did the man do to be healed?
8. Since we, like the impotent man, cannot keep God's law, what should we do in order to be saved? (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16)