

Do You Want To Get Well?



In the Book of John (John 5:2-8) is a passage about a man who has been an invalid for 38 years. Placed on his mat at the Pool of Bethesda, he is surrounded by others, who are also suffering from various maladies. Each are there in hope of being the fortunate one to reach the water and be healed. The belief was that once a day an angel would descend into the pool, causing waters to stir. The first person to enter the pool upon that occasion would be

healed. One can only imagine such an experience of placing all hope in being the winner. Only to be disappointed time and time again.

Then enters Jesus, Who approaches the man speaking words I have pondered over and over for years as a Christian counselor: “Do you want to get well?” The man didn’t answer the question. He simply said he had no one to help him into the pool but was always pushed back. Then Jesus said to him “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured. He arose, picked up his mat and walked.

The reason this scripture speaks so strongly to me is due to the reality of knowing there are those who truly do want to get well with the understanding there will be an element of cooperating with the Lord in this process. There are others who want their life circumstance to change. They want relief. As far as the mandate, “Get up and take up your mat and walk”, they might be surprised this is even asked of them. In essence their thinking is more, “I thought you would be carrying my mat for me.”

There are many with whom we work who have been bound in an emotional, spiritual, mental paralysis of sorts for years and years. What remained unresolved from childhood became a propelling factor in a gravitation toward continuous, bad decisions as adults resulting in compounded painful consequences. Like the man at the pool of Bethesda they have waited for something to miraculously change in their lives. Hopelessness and despondency defined the walls of their mindset.

There are others who have found themselves in a season of great affliction, the likes of which are foreign to what they experienced in their safe, loving home of origin. Upon speaking their vows before God and man on their wedding day their hearts were set upon being a loving wife and mother of future children. The addition of children, in many cases, became a catalyst for emotional and verbal abuse and manipulation from their husbands. The heinous twist is they were told such behavior was their fault which they began to believe and did everything possible in their power to mitigate the strife by walking on eggshells. Usually it is upon seeing the toll this is taking on their children that a decision is made to separate.

Upon first meeting with women we hear their stories of shattered dreams. In so many of these narratives is a beam of Light that broke through the darkness. In many cases it is this place of utter desolation that caused them to cry out for rescue. Recently we heard such a moving account of a mother who came to know Jesus in the midst of the oppressive bondage of ongoing domestic violence.

There was an attic room that became her prayer closet. She was forbidden by her husband to speak of God. Her little girls would tell her they felt the presence of God in the attic. Eventually a situation occurred in which steps for a restraining order were taken and the husband removed from the home. Once gone the little girls now say “we feel God everywhere in our home.”

Jesus came to set us captives free; to disarm the works of the enemy. Just as He inquired of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda, so too, He asks the same of each of us: “Do you want to get well?” It requires a mindful response from the core of our being. First of all it is Jesus, the Giver of Life Who asks us this question. It is not simply for the purpose of writing our name and response in a survey He is carrying around. It is an invitation toward believing upon Him: He Who is the Giver of Life Abundant.

If indeed we say “yes”, then comes a mandate: “GET UP!” One who has been in the muck and the mire for years isn’t really able to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and jump back into life. Those who have shelves of self-help books can testify to this reality. It takes the grace of our Lord which is activated by faith in Him that enables such a supernatural event. It is a first step: not to see Him through the distorted lenses of our past but to see Him with the “eyes of our hearts being enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which He has called us.” (Eph. 1:18) Our physical and emotional eyesight only know the residue of our life experience.

You, who invest in the work of the Mustard Seed Project are playing a vital role in being the present cloud of witnesses who believe in the power of Jesus to restore. One need not remain in the vortex of the past. It is an honor for us to be called to walk with women who not only want to get well and get up and take up their mats and walk but also know this decision will powerfully impact the movement forward in the breaking of generational bondage for their children. We are humbled to be entrusted with this work for the Kingdom of God.

With Great Appreciation,

The Mustard Seed Family

“The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.....He does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.” Psalm 9



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