

SOMETHING WORSE THAN BEING PHYSICALLY SICK

John 5:1-14

Introduction: "Fox hole religion" is a term given to soldiers during the war that promised God that if He would get them through the war that they'd do anything He wanted but the promise was short lived for as soon as the danger was over, the promise was forgotten. It seems to be human nature to make promises under duress and then forget or ignore them when relief has come. However, a few will remember and fulfill their promises/s.

I. GOD EXTENDED MERCY TO A MAN IN NEED

1. The Pool of Bethesda was unique for it was also a "house of mercy," a deep pool that traditionally the waters were stirred by an angel at a certain time of the year and the first person into the pool received healing.
2. There were five porches upon which many people waited, some waiting for many years.
 - The man of our text was such a person who had waited for a long time.
 - The man of our text was crippled in that he needed help to get around and couldn't get into the pool's waters by himself.
3. Jesus picked this man out of all the many laying and sitting around the pool. Why this particular man? Was he pointed out? There were hundreds lying around who were in just as bad shape as this man. Why this man?
 - Jesus him if he really wanted healing. Some people don't really want to be well for they like the sympathy and attention they get (sad, but true) and they don't have to work.
 - Jesus healed the man as with the power to heal, comes also the power to command.
4. The healed man returned to thank Jesus after following Jesus' orders to go present himself to the priest. A reminder of the time Jesus healed 10 lepers but only one returned to thank Him.

II. JESUS WARNED THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WORSE THAN BEING SICK

1. Sin often is the cause of man's troubles. The Jews believed that sin caused every bad or wrong thing and if you were sick, you had sinned somewhere.
 - Today, much of our troubles are directly related to our sins.
2. Sin doesn't prevent God from offering mercy.
 - Jesus spent most of His time with sinners and some of Jesus' greatest acts of mercy were to sinners.
 - Your (our) sin/s doesn't prevent God from offering YOU/us mercy.
3. God loves sinners but NOT their sins.
 - Jesus warned the healed man of something worse than his former illness, and that was sin.
 - A whole human life of misery and pain is nothing compared to an eternity in Hell.

- Those who reject Jesus now may be very healthy but there will come a time when their eternity in Hell will begin with no hope of escape.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's Church is to us what the pool was to the Jews.
 - No real healing qualities in the water for God brought all the healing.
 - No salvation in the Church membership, but "*...where two or three are gathered together there am I in the midst of them...*"
 - Some are not as concerned about their spiritual life as they are their physical life as they jog, take vitamins, do exercises and have regular physical check-ups., etc.
 - But what do they care about their souls?
 - What condition is YOUR soul in? Are you even aware of your spiritual needs?
 - Come to Jesus as you are, as you would if you went to your doctor.
2. If you have received mercies from God, live like it!
 - **Romans 6:1-2** - The healed man returned to Jesus and he told others what had happened,'
 - People fear for their physical life but where is their fear of God and eternity without Jesus?
 - To reject God's Son will ensure eternal damnation.
 - Let us not forget our condition before we met Jesus Christ.
3. There is something worse than being sick...it's being LOST with out the Lord Jesus Christ.