

Sept 12th 2004: Miracles Series: John 5:1-15 Kickstarting a Life

Just recently...motor bike which had sat.....since the close of the warm weather
And to put it mildly.....it was reluctance to go anywhere.....

It was that incident.....thought back to.....when I entitled → **kickstarting a life**
For I sense.....in the story of**Some** reluctance about being made whole, and all
the changes that would bring

Yet Jesus intervenes.....and gets his life moving again

The story is set in Jerusalem.....In a special place that many see as still there today
Known as the pool of Bethesda...reasonably sized area.....Five big pillars...colonnades

John tells us that it was a place where a great number....blind...lame....paralysed
The reason they did.....was a belief they had...in the healing properties of the pool

We need to understand...that due to their religion...Jewish society....beggar friendly
Being all together.....would not necessarily had been a disadvantage

Jesus walking amongst them.....not seen as unusual
What is strange.....is that He was not recognized as the Miracle worker

All these sick people.....NO ONE crying out to Jesus
No one ...it seems.....even knowing His name

SO

It is Jesus Himself who approaches this one man
Of all those there.....Jesus chose him ---→ 5:6...

Then that very direct question....Do you want to get well?

One would think the answer would be automatic.....and obvious YES

Instead.....what Jesus received was a rather defensive answer
Justifying the factthat after so many years.....he was still in the same place.....

It is this answer.....along with the rather morose behaviour.....follows
That leads many to see.....a certain reluctance

As a beggar.....life had become liveable.....After 38 years of knowing no other way
He was perhaps a little wary.....of having to become someone else....Responsibilities

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT

It's the very same reluctance.....that so many seem to have....to becoming Christians
Preferring to stay as they are.....rather than face the changes....conversion would demand

(Dr Scofield's conversion...p124 "40 Fascinating Conversion Stories")

Now it is true...some could well argue.....Man wasn't really reluctant to receive....
He just did not know who Jesus was.....

However there can be no doubt.....that after his healing.....A reluctance,
To be truly thankful.....or committed to following Him

Jesus healed the man and he picked up his mat and walked
But there is no expression of joy recorded.....**No** falling at the feet....in praise & thanks

Compare the story in Acts 3.....He went with them jumping and leaping and praising
And when trouble came.....**Peter and John** were thrown into....and then dragged b4
He gladly stood alongside them

Yet this man walks away....doesn't even know where Jesus has gone....
Not even His name
And at the first hint of trouble...when the Jewish leaders challenge him about....
He puts the blame on Jesus

You would think....that you would do anything for the One who made you well
But as soon as things became tough.....this man loyalty.....Lacking

The same is sadly true for some....who profess to be Christians
They do ok.....until commitment starts to become costly

Until being a Christian means standing against the crowd.....
Walking alone along the path less travelled.....

(A college man walked into a photography studio with a framed picture of his girlfriend. He wanted the picture duplicated. This involved removing the frame. In doing this the studio owner noticed the inscription on the back of the photograph. My dearest Tom I love you with all my heart. I love you more and more each day. I will love you forever and ever. I am yours for all eternity. It was signed Dianne, and it contained a PS. If we ever break up I want this picture back.)

Do we have a PS with our Christian commitment?

There was one final scene in this story....perhaps the saddest

You see Jesus went and found the man again.....

The man was in the Temple.....poss giving thanks...and he discovered who had healed
Then v15-16 says.....

He knew how angry the authorities were at JesusHe knew how they would react
Yet straight away he goes and tells them.....it was Jesus

Why did he react as he did ??.....Look at what Jesus said to him in the Temple
v14.....

We know from what Jesus said ELSEWHERE.....that because someone is sick.....
But in this case....Jesus saw a connection

Some sin that this man was still involved in

His response was not repentance ...but betrayal

If we find ourselves not as committed.....as we know we should be.....
Then it may be because there's some sin.....we don't want to deal with

We are not told what this man missed out on....by not fully committing his life
To following Jesus

But we know from Scripture...testimony of others.....Everything that's worthwhile
IS FOUND IN FOLLOWING HIM

What about you

Are you committed to following Jesus whatever the cost ??

The man who was healed by Peter and John.....was totally committed to praising
God

And living for Jesus

And He leaped away with something this man never got
THE JOY OF THE LORD.....what about you ????