

*Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, **“Do you want to be made well?”** John 5:6-7 NKJV*

There are many instances of healing in the Bible. God has revealed Himself as a healing God, in the Old Testament and the New. On the cross, Jesus became sin and sickness for us – He took our place – so we can receive forgiveness and healing.

As believers in Jesus, it is part of our covenant agreement with God, a Promise that we can stand on and receive as our own. It is “the children’s bread” (Mark 7:27).

The story we read about in John chapter 5 is different to many of the healings Jesus performed when He walked the earth. In most cases, people came to Him; they sought Him out to heal them after news had spread about Him healing the sick and casting out demons. But here we find a man who could not help himself. He was lame for thirty eight years and had no way forward. He was stuck and had probably resigned himself to a meaningless existence. He lay at that pool day in and day out, waiting, but had no reason to hope because he had no one to help him get to the pool for the chance of being healed when the waters were stirred.

But Jesus sought him out. Jesus found him and offered him the opportunity to be made well, which he took! Later He found him again in the temple and said to him, **“See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”** (John 5:14).

Jesus had compassion on this man and reached out to him. He then showed him the way. We too, ought to have compassion on those who are stuck and can’t help themselves. It may be physical healing they need, or just a hand forward in life. Whatever ‘condition’ they find themselves in, we can offer them the “words of life”, Jesus Himself. His forgiveness and grace is available to all who call upon Him. (Acts 2:21)

Do you know someone who needs help?

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? How does it apply to you?
- 2) Do you need healing for anything in your life? Find a Promise in the Bible to stand on and trust Jesus to fulfil His word in your life. It is freely given; just receive.
- 3) Will you help that person who needs Jesus today?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?