



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 39

Lesson Title: Man at Bethesda Pool

Take Home Point: Jesus is God's Son – Jesus heals broken lives.

Warm-Up:

A few years ago I had surgery on my finger to repair a torn ligament. Both the surgery and recuperation went well, and as I regained motion and use of my finger, I was struck by what was occurring. The doctor did an excellent job of pinning the ligament to the bone for the two to grow back together as they should, but after that, he was watching and waiting just like me. With all due respect to his considerable skill, he was not healing me. It was God's work through the natural processes he created in my body. He knew it, too. As we prepared for the surgery, he told me what he would do, and said after that the body would do its job. I realized something else, too. I went to that doctor because he believed he could help me. Without that confidence in his ability, I would not have gone to him.

Read: John 5:1-47; Psalm 147:3

Observation (What happened?):

What was the response of the Jews when they saw the invalid who had been healed?

To whom does Jesus equate himself?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus told the man to stop sinning after he had healed him?

To whom was Jesus referring when he said "another testified in his favor"?

Insight:

The world we live in is such a broken place. The consequences of sin general and sins specific are all around us. Physical illness, congenital conditions, accidental breaking and bruising, even death, are effects of a fallen world. Mental anguish and illness, emotional trauma, spiritual dullness, are all results of sin's mark. Broken relationships, hatred, abuse, discrimination (based on whatever factor is selected) are caused by, and cause, painful wounds and brokenness. We can't avoid it, either in causing it to happen or it happening to us. Now, just as with my finger, God created in us a capacity for self-healing – physically, mentally, emotionally – to a certain degree of wounding. But spiritually is a different matter. There we have no means to self-heal in any degree. We are dead in our sins. There is no possible hope to revive our spirit on our own. That is why Jesus came to die and live again – to perform the ultimate healing, to restore our spirit and our relationship with the God who created us. God cares so much for us; he wants us to be whole and well in every way. But he cares most about our spirit, for he knows that unless it is healed for eternity, everything else is temporary and lost when this life is over.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

In what circumstance has God healed your brokenness? Thank him for his healing.

What needs healing in you today? Ask God to make you whole again.

Lesson 39