

Do You Want to Be Well

Intro: Text of John 5:1-9: The Paralytic Man

- Had a grievous affliction that affected the course of his life
- Up to that point, (38 Years) had been completely helpless
- Jesus asks a simple Question: "Do You Want to Be Well"
- The answer is, in essence, I wish I could, but I'm powerless
- Jesus gives simple instructions: Get up and Walk

What excuses could the man have made?

- Do you really think it is as easy as all that?
- I'd really rather wait here and keep trying it my way...
- I've gotten used to this life; I don't really want to change...

Do You *Want* to Be Well?

- Question helps us to get to the heart of the matter
- When we come into contact with God it is with One who *wants* to heal us
- Scripture is filled with those who outright refused to accept healing

I. Examples of Those Who God Gave Multiple Chances to Be Well, The Effects of Continued Sin Sickness

- King Ahab--one long lesson in patience and Grace--ended up bleeding to death, blood running into the harlot's bath
- Zedekiah/Judah in Jeremiah's Day--even now your life can be given to you as a price--Son's killed-eyes out
- The Pharisees and Other Religious Leaders--So many conversations trying to get them to see the error of their ways: Luke 14-16: Punishment in AD 70

II. God Isn't Going to Force You to Be Healed:

- Romans 1: If we make it our declaration that we want no part with God, He will not force us to accept His grace against our will
- Although Jesus desperately wanted people to respond to His message, He could not make change their hearts:
 - o Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem...
 - o Sell your possessions and follow me...
 - o You are not far from the kingdom of God...

III. Do You Want to Be Well?

- What behaviors and attitudes need to change?
- If we say we want to bear good fruit, are we pruning off the rotten fruit and corrupt branches?
- Are we ready to stop making excuses that we *simply cannot change*? The power of God to heal is greater than our sickness if we are willing to submit to treatment
- Could it be that we are in denial over our need?