

There was a woman that had been through so many traumatic experiences in her life that were not resolved properly, that she ended up in a mental sanitarium.

She had been in this facility for many years, suffering from extreme depression, and by this time, she only sat alone on a bench outside all day just staring at the ground.

She never said anything, she never moved.

On a particular day, a doctor came to visit her and greeted her by saying “Good morning, my name is Dr. **H-E-V-E-N!**”

Then as he started to walk away, amazingly, the woman said to him **“What did you say your name was?”**

He told her **“HEVEN”**.

In that confused process of her mind, the thought that he had said **H-E-A-V-E-N**.

As she sat there, she began to think about Heaven. As she thought about heaven, she thought about the Lord. As she thought about the Lord she remembered how much Jesus had loved her that He had died for her...

The next morning, this same woman began to say to everyone who passed by her: **“This is the day that the Lord has made...”**

The day after that: **“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...”**

Within six days she was saying to everyone who passed by her: **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...”**

Five weeks later, she was released from the hospital and for the last fourteen years she has been a wonderful school teacher in Southern California...

She had forgotten that there is in fact a heaven and everyone of us who has trusted in Jesus Christ is going there soon...

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

She forgot that the Lord really does love her, and that no matter how difficult the circumstances or how deep the hurt, **with Jesus, We can do everything...**

It was through this deep sorrow and affliction of her own soul, that the Lord worked His best work in her life, and taught her to forever dwell on His promises, and not on her circumstances...

Sir Thomas Brown wrote that: *“We all labor against our own cure...”*

What he meant, is that when we are suffering and broken, suffering from a loss, a sickness, a disappointment or a failure, we want to get out of that place as soon as possible...

- ☞ **But, it is in that very place** that our healing and our deliverance will come.
- ☞ **It is when our heart is broken open**, that the real purpose for our life can begin to flow out.

Hebrews 5:8

...though Jesus was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Philippians 1:19

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

I have been going through my own broken heart for the past 8 months.

- ☞ **Someone said to me the other day:** *“Rob, you come and take the pulpit and you are teaching us the word, but you are not really here...”*
- ☞ **Not that my mind is on Elsie** and the loss of her.
- ☞ **Not that my mind is on Melinda** an longing for her to be here...

But *“Rob you are not on this planet...”*

- ☞ **Sometimes we are lost** and we don't even know it!
- ☞ **We can get out of bed everyday** and go through our routine, because that is what we are supposed to do.
- ☞ **We go through the motions** of life...
- ☞ **We pretend** that we are strong and that everything is Okay...
- ☞ **But everything** is not Okay...

The last 2 days I have finally realized that I am not Okay, and I haven't been Okay for 8 months now...

- ☞ **I sat with the elders yesterday** and worked through some difficulties with members of our church family and I realized that all of it was my fault.

I have been asleep now for quite some time...

- ☞ **When I come here and teach the word**, I have been pretending that everything is just fine.
- ☞ **Then I go home and lock myself in my room** and I just cry all of the time.
- ☞ **Everything is not just fine**, it hasn't been fine for me since the day I watched Elsie pass away.
- ☞ **I have been lost inside of a sorrow** that I couldn't get out of.

And I have let all of you down, and I have failed to be there for many of you when you needed me...

- ☞ **And I am truly sorry!**
- ☞ **But yesterday I woke up** for the first time in 8 months and realized that I need to be honest with you and let you be a part of my sorrow.
- ☞ **I realized** that all of you love me and that I don't have to hide from you.

I thought that I needed to try and be strong and just keep coming and teaching the Word and everything would be Okay.

- ☞ **But** I was wrong.
- ☞ **I should have** let you in.
- ☞ **I should have let you** help me.
- ☞ **I know that you** have tried.
- ☞ **But I was hiding from you**, from the pain, from the truth that I was hurting so much that I just wanted to die.

I also realized that this is all very, very good for me, and probably for all of you...

- ☞ **Because it is through pain like this**, and making mistakes like I have made, that my heart broke wide open.
- ☞ **Open enough to realize** that I need to let all of you in, even when I am not Okay.
- ☞ **And that I don't have to** hide in my pain.

So now I say to the Lord, "Now all I want is a broken heart".

- ☞ **Always** and continually, everyday.
- ☞ **To be broken** before Jesus and before you.
- ☞ **To let out** all of me, and let in all of Jesus.

As Jesus comes today in this part of the study, He is coming to people like me and like you, who life has broken in two...

How else can Jesus enter our life, but through a broken heart?

Psalms 30:2

O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.

There are many times when the Lord is nearer to us and we can feel His presence better, when we are sick and hurting and in distress...

Often the Lord will permit a disease of the Body, to cure the disease of the soul...

As we pick back up in our “Harmony of the Gospels” study, we find Jesus now as the “Healer...”

- ☞ **I found out yesterday** that Jesus is “the Healer”.
- ☞ **Maybe today** you need Him to be for you “the Healer”.
- ☞ **May He be able to begin** and complete that process in all of us starting today!

Jesus goes to Jerusalem to heal a disabled man:

John 5:1-47

1 After this there was **a feast** of the Jews, and Jesus **went up** to Jerusalem.

There were 3 feasts in Jerusalem that every male was required to attend.

1. **Passover** and unleavened bread
2. **Pentecost**—also called the feast of weeks
3. **Tabernacles**

- ☞ **This particular feast** that was occurring at this time why Jesus went to Jerusalem.
- ☞ **Jesus went there**, because that is where the people would be, the hurting people, the lost people.
- ☞ **Notice it says that Jesus went “up” to Jerusalem.**

John 5

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by **the Sheep Gate a pool**, which is called in Hebrew, **Bethesda**, having five porches.

- ☞ **The “sheep gate”** is first mentioned in the book of Nehemiah where it was built by the high priest “**Eliashib**”.

Nehemiah 3:1-4

1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and **built the Sheep Gate**; they consecrated it and hung its doors.

- ☞ **There were two pools of water** there with five covered “**Colonnades**”—here translated as “**porches**”.
- ☞ **This was an open structure** with roofs over the pools that provided some protection from the sun and rain.

The “**sheep gate**” is the gate into Jerusalem where the sheep for the sacrifice were brought through on their way to the temple area.

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- ☞ **Notice here in verse 2**—the Hebrew name for these pools is “**Bethesda**”—which in English is translated—“**The house of mercy**”.

Did you know that this is the name of the Lords house for you today?

“*The House of Mercy*”.

- ☞ **A place** where you can come and not be condemned, but be healed.
- ☞ **A place where you can come** and be loved and healed and restored...

The name “Bethesda”, house of mercy, most likely came because of all of the merciful acts of healing that occurred there.

OH that Calvary Chapel would be called “Bethesda” The house of healing because of all of the merciful acts of healing that occur here...

John 5

3 In these (UNDER THESE PORCHES) lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

- ☞ **The sick—the paralyzed—blind—disabled**—all gathered under the 5 porches by the pools of water waiting to be healed.
- ☞ **These people represent** the population of human beings who were desperate for help—this is the reason they were here.

Many times—we are surrounded by so many different types of support—and blessing in our life that we never realize how destitute we are as human beings.

- ☞ **Derek Webb** wrote in his song “***Wedding Dress***”, these words, forgive the graphic language of the lyric, but they really describe for us, the true condition of our hearts sometimes.

*“If you could love me as a wife
And for my wedding gift, your life
Should that be all I'll ever need? Or is there more I'm looking for?
And should I read between the lines
And look for blessings in disguise
To make me handsome, rich and wise? Is that really what you want?”*

*'Cause I am a whore I do confess
I put you on just like a wedding dress and I
Run down the aisle I run down the aisle
I'm a prodigal with no way home
I put you on just like a ring of gold and I
Run down the aisle I run down the aisle To you*

The song is about the same reality that Jesus is seeing as He comes to the pool called Bethesda.

- ☞ **People who are tired, broke, sick, suffering loss** and broken heartedness, laying all around, and all around them is the answer to their need for healing.
- ☞ **It is right there in front of them,** but they cant get up and reach it.

And yet, sometimes, like me, we put on Jesus like a wedding dress and run down the isle and pretend that everything is Okay, when it is not Okay, we are hurting, broken and we need Jesus to heal us...

We are severely handicapped in the United States...We have so much here, so many resources, so much blessing.

- ☞ **And when we are broken,** and hurting, **we run to all of these temporary comforts,** instead of running to the ONE who can bring us everlasting comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Most of the human race is so preoccupied with their own day to day lives that they fail to realize we are all a lost race of beings headed for ultimate destruction.

- ☞ **These people here at Bethesda realized how destitute they were**—physically—and spiritually—they have nothing in their life except the hope that maybe God will be merciful and help them.
- ☞ **When life is good and we have all that we need**—when we are healthy and satisfied—we tend to not notice our deeper need for spiritual healing and our desperate need to be reconciled to god.
- ☞ **During our moments of deepest need is when the lord can reach us the best.**

May all of here this morning cry out to the Lord before we leave this place: **“Now I want a Broken Heart”**

“Lord I have been running away from the reality of the pain I feel in my life, but now I take that pain and that broken heart and I run to you, heal me Lord...”

4 For **an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water;** then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

- ☞ **In all of the earliest manuscripts in existence—this particular verse does not exist.**

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- ☞ **It is believed** that the later commentators added this verse to help explain for us—**why these people were laying here by the water.**
- ☞ **The context here does not tell us** whether an angel actually went down into the water or the people just believed that this is what happened.
- ☞ **The pools were fed by a spring of water from underneath**—so depending upon the flow of the spring—the water would swirl at the surface—appearing to have its surface moved by an external source.

John 5

5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity **thirty-eight years.**

6 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?**"

- ☞ **In every case—all of Jesus miracles were done when there was no hope of a human solution.**
- ☞ **In the life of Abraham**, he had been promised by the Lord a son who would be the heir through which the whole world would be blessed.

10 years after the promise was given, Abraham still did not have a son and he was almost 100 years old.

Abraham decided to try and help the Lord out by taking Sarah's handmaid Hagar to assist in having a child.

Genesis 15:4

And behold, the word of the LORD came to Abraham, saying, "This one (Ishmael) shall not be your heir, but one (Isaac) **who will come from your own body** shall be your heir.

- ☞ **God rejected this as a "work of the flesh"**—it was not until 13 years later—when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old that Sarah gave birth to Isaac.
- ☞ **Abraham was going to have to wait** for the promise that the Lord made to him that this son would come from His own body.

When all hope of having a child was gone, humanly speaking, this is when The Lord showed His mighty power and gave Isaac son to Abraham, the son that he had promised 23 years before.

- ☞ **Many times** the Lord will wait until you have exhausted all of your own efforts and struggling and just surrender it to Him, before He will work for you what you think is impossible.

Notice in verse 6; Jesus asks the man: "**do you want to be made well?**"

We never see Jesus imposing or forcing himself upon anyone. Jesus asks everyone of us: "do you want to be saved"?

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- ⊕ **It is the same today** if you need a healing in your life, Jesus is asking you, “Do you really want to be healed?”
- ⊕ **Why** does Jesus ask that?
- ⊕ **Isn't it obvious** that someone that is hurting or sick, that they WANT to be healed?
- ⊕ **No, actually** there are some people who really don't want to be healed, they get more love and attention from other people when they are sick and hurting.
- ⊕ **Sometimes we can glory in our suffering**, because of the attention we get from it.

Here, Jesus lets us see that He will not bring to us deliverance and healing until we REALLY WANT IT.

- ⊕ **Sometimes** receiving that healing **will require us to repent** of our hard heartedness.
- ⊕ **Maybe our healing** will require us **to forgive someone else**.
- ⊕ **Perhaps in order** to be delivered from a present hurt, **you need to confess that you are hurting** and be vulnerable to other people.
- ⊕ **This is one of the things** that I learned, because I always thought that I need to be strong before all of you, I didn't know that I need to let you share in my suffering.

There is an interesting statement by Jesus in the book of revelation, chapter 3. Jesus is asking a question to his church, **whether they will let him come back inside His own church!**

They don't even realize that he has left their presence!

Revelation 3:20

20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (NKJ)

- ⊕ **It is truly an amazing thing—the king of the universe is asking his own church for permission to come back inside!**
- ⊕ **The concept here** is that Jesus will not force you to:
 1. Believe that his sacrifice can save you.
 2. Come to him for forgiveness and the gift of eternal life.
 3. Allow him to bless your life as you submit to him in everything.
 4. In this case here in john chapter 5—he will not force this man who has been crippled from this disease for 38 years—to be healed.

The human will is the one thing that the Lord is powerless to overrule, He will seek to influence you to ask Him for help, but He will never force you to help

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Psalms 2:8

Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Jesus can do anything, except to force you to love him.

- ⊞ **In verse 14**, after Jesus healed the man, we find out **why this man was in this condition**, because of his own sin.

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. **Sin no more**, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

The man needed to be made whole, but his greater need was to have his sin forgiven, to gain eternal life.

- ⊞ **Most of us this very morning** have things going on in our life that we need help from the Lord on.
- ⊞ **Some of the things** you are going through right now, you just don't understand why they are happening to you!

Perhaps all of this is just to bring you to the end of yourself and all of your own efforts and understanding, and to just fall at Jesus feet and say “**Lord Help Me**”.

- ⊞ **Perhaps** there are some things that you have allowed in your life that you need to get out of your life...
- ⊞ **Through this process** of being broken you realize, “*I need to get this out of my life, to sin no more!*”

This man condition was as a result of his own sin and his healing came when he decided to trust Jesus to help him.

- ⊞ **Sometimes suffering** is the result of **our own sin**, sometimes it is the result of things **other people** have done to us, and sometimes the suffering is **just so that the Lord can be glorified in your life**.

John 9:1-3

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

So now Jesus comes to the man at the waters of Bethesda and asks Him if he really wants to be healed?

John 5

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, **I have no man** to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

The man expected Jesus to place him into the water so that he could be healed.

- ☞ **Notice: Jesus has his own plan**, He wants the man to know that Jesus is not just there to help him get **physically healed**, He is there to take care of the root problem, **his sin**.
- ☞ **From this point on**, this man does not tell Jesus how to heal him, he just allows Jesus to heal him His own way!

In your present situation, the pain you are in right now, the situation you are in is only a symptom of the real problem.

Are you willing this morning to allow Jesus to "**Break Your Heart**"?

- ☞ **Are you willing to make yourself vulnerable** to this whole body and just say "I am hurting", or "I need Help"
- ☞ **It has taken me nearly 8 months** now to realize my need for all of you to help me heal, are you at the place today that you will stand with me and come up front with me and say, I also want to admit my need before this body that I need to be healed.

Maybe you have hardened your heart and the Lord had broken through some of that hardness this morning and now you are willing to say "Lord Now I want you to completely break my heart so that you can heal me.."

Is that you?

Like the man at Bethesda, you are lying near the water, you can see the mercy nearby, but you have no one to pick you up and place you in the water, will you stand up now and we will come and bring you to the water...I AM GOING TO COME AND LET YOU PUT ME IN THE WATER...!