

There are so many times in our lives that we do not understand why things happen the way that they do.

**We ask** *“Lord why are you allowing this to happen to me”?*

- ☞ **The wonderful truth** is that everything that happens to the person who has committed their life to Jesus Christ has an ultimate good purpose.
- ☞ **The God** who made everything Loves you and He is a Good God, a Loving God, a God who always has your ultimate well being in mind.
- ☞ **But that does not always mean** that we will understand everything that He does in our life.

The Book of Isaiah was written in the days of four kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah

**It was in the year that Uzziah (the first king) died that Isaiah really saw who the Lord was. It was not until the thing that Isaiah had focused his entire life upon had finally been removed, that he really saw who the Lord is.**

But when those things that had been hindering Isaiah were finally taken away, Isaiah saw the Lord for who He really is, and he wrote this about how the Lord works:

**Isaiah 55:8-12**

8 “For **My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**” says the LORD.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; **It shall not return to Me void,** But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

12 “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands

**This means that you and I are not always going to understand what the Lord is doing in our lives, or what the purposes are for those times of trial or difficulties.**

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- ☞ **If we understand** that the Lord loves us and always has our best in mind, then we don't need to know what the Lord is doing, we just commit ourselves to Him and trust Him.

As we find Jesus this morning in the 4 Gospels, He is coming to a man who has been paralyzed since birth.

- ☞ **Every day** this man is carried to the Sheep Gate Pool.
- ☞ **He is coming here** in the hopes of being healed.
- ☞ **He is brought here** by others because he doesn't have the capacity to make it here by himself.
- ☞ **Everyday of his life**, he depends on other people to help him do everything.

**He doesn't understand why the Lord who says that he loves him, has allowed his life to be so difficult...**

But then Jesus comes into his life and changes everything...

### **John 5:1-47**

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

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

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

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

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.

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

1. Passover
2. Pentecost
3. Tabernacles

- ☞ **We don't know which feast this was**, but because of the feast is why Jesus is going 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.

- ☞ **It was called** the “*Sheep Gate*” because this is where the sheep for the sacrifices at the temple were brought into Jerusalem.
- ☞ **There were two pools** of water there with five covered “**Colonnades**”, or “**Porches**” over the pools.

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

- ☞ **They most likely** called these two pools “House of Mercy” because of all of the acts of healing that took place 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.

If you have the picture here in your mind, there are many, many sick, paralyzed, blind, and disabled people laying all around these two pools of water, ALL DAY.

- ☞ **These people** were desperate for help, this is the reason they were here.

For most of us, when things are going pretty good, we don’t come to the Lord every day and seek Him for help.

- ☞ **When things begin to go bad**, we often go to get help from other people or places that offer us help.
- ☞ **We forget** to go to our God who made us and who knows everything about our need.

These people realized how destitute they were physically and spiritually. They have nothing in their life except the hope that perhaps the Lord would be merciful and help them.

- ☞ **It is During our moments** of deepest need that the Lord can really reach us, because we are open to be helped when we suffer.
- ☞ **One of the greatest purposes** of why the Lord allows us to suffer sometimes, is because He wants to reach us, speak to us, and this is the only time we will listen.
- ☞ **If you are suffering this day**, maybe the Lord is speaking to you right now and encouraging you to come to Him, right where you sit and ask Him for His help.

### **John 5**

4 for (they believed) 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.
- ☞ **It is believed** that the later commentators added this verse to help explain for us why these people were laying here by the water.

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- ☞ **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.

The important thing is that the People that came here believed that when the waters stirred, their faith was ignited and they believed that the Lord would heal them.

### **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?"

### **Does this sound like a strange question to ask?**

- ☞ **A man who has been paralyzed for 38 years**, that comes to the pools everyday in hopes of being healed by the Lord...
- ☞ **Why** does Jesus ask him this question?

### **Matthew 20:21**

And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

### **Matthew 20:32**

So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

### **Luke 18:41**

saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

### **John 1:38**

Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

### **Why does Jesus ask questions that have obvious answers?**

- ☞ The Lord wants to work in your life.
- ☞ He wants to forgive all of your sins.
- ☞ He wants to make Himself known to you.
- ☞ He wants to help you.
- ☞ He wants to provide for you.
- ☞ He wants to heal you.

### **But He will not do so unless you ask Him.**

- ☞ **To do so** would be a violation of your free will, and He will not force Himself upon you, no matter how great your need is.
- ☞ **If you need help** from the Lord, whatever the need, you must ask Him in faith believing that He not only can Help you, but that He wants to help you.

**We never see Jesus imposing or forcing himself upon anyone. Jesus asks everyone of us: “do you want Me to help you?”**

- ☞ **In the book of Revelation** chapter 3, Jesus is asking a question to his church that sounds strange; Will they will let him come back inside the church, they have kicked Him out, and 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.

Jesus will not force His love upon you. He may seek to influence your decision, by showing you how much He loves you.

- ☞ **He may allow you** to be put into a situation where you are going through a trial, **so that you can see your need for His help.**
- ☞ **But He will not force you** to ask Him for help.

### **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.

**Notice the words that the man uses in verse 7: “I have no man to put me in the pool...”**

- ☞ **The man had expectations** about HOW the Lord would help him, he expected “A Man” to pick him up and place him into the water—so that he could be healed.

**Do we do that? Have expectations about how the Lord should help us. When He doesn't help us the way we imagined he would help us, sometimes we even miss the help He sends to us?**

A man gave his life to Jesus Christ one day while in church, and he committed his life to trust Jesus with all of his heart.

He had heard how the Lord would always be there for him and supply all of his needs..

No long afterwards, a great flood came to the town that he lived in. The man prayed and asked: ***“Lord I am trusting in you to take care of me now, in this flood.”***

The government of his town mobilized a rescue effort and sent a truck out to remove the man from his home before the flood came.

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*“No thanks” The man said to the rescue team, “I have committed my life to Jesus Christ, and He promised to protect me and provide for me.. I will stay here and trust the Lord...”*

The waters of that flood began to rise until it was in his front yard, and another team of rescue member came **in a motorboat** to the mans house to rescue him, again he told the rescuers:

*“I have committed my life to Jesus Christ, and He promised to protect me and provide for me.. I will stay here and trust the Lord...”*

Finally the flood waters overtook that mans house and he was forced up to the roof top for fear of drowning...

A rescue helicopter hovered over the man and said *“Grab the ladder and climb up before it is too late...”*

**The man told the rescuer:** *“No thanks, I have committed my life to Jesus Christ, and He promised to protect me and provide for me.. I will stay here and trust the Lord...”*

The flood waters came over the house and **the man was drowned** in the waters...as the man appeared in heaven in the presence of God, he asked the Lord:

***“Lord when I gave my life to you, you promised that you would take care of me and provide all that I need, why Lord in my hour of greatest need did you abandon me and let me drown?”***

The Lord replied: *“Hey don’t get mad at me, I sent you a truck, a Boat, and a Helicopter...”*

**Many times the Lord will supply what we need, or take care of our need, through the everyday ordinary circumstances of our life, not in a supernatural way of signs and wonders as we might expect.**

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

**Perhaps the things that you are suffering through right now, is not the real problem as the Lord see it.**

- ☞ **It appears** in THIS MANS SITUATION, that **something he has done** in the past, some sin HE committed, has caused this condition he is in.

Now, there are problems that can happen in our life as the result of **our own sin**, but Very important: **NOT ALL SICKNESS OR DIFFICULTY IS CAUSED BY OUR SIN.**

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- ⊖ **They can be caused** by someone else's sins against us.
- ⊖ **Or there can be no sin at all**, the suffering is just **a part of this fallen world** we live in.
- ⊖ **We live in a fallen world**, and bad things happen all the time as a result of this fallen world.
- ⊖ **Or our suffering** can simply be for the purpose of bringing the Lord Glory as He works with us through the suffering.

### **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, notice: "**neither this man nor his parents sinned**, but that the works of god should be revealed in him.

**One of the results of sin in suffering, but not all suffering is caused by sin.**

- ⊖ **This man** was born blind but it was not because of the sin of his parents or anything that he had done, it was simply the results of a fallen world.
- ⊖ **Jesus said** that it was an opportunity for God to display his mighty power over sickness and disability.

One of the big lies that has been taught in churches in the past is that if you are suffering it is because of some sin that you have done.

- ⊖ **This is the same proposal** that Job's friends brought to him in chapters 3-30 in the book of Job.
- ⊖ **Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar**, said that job's suffering was somehow caused by his own sin.
- ⊖ **We know** that it was not, it was caused by satan.

### **Job 1:8-12**

- 8 then the lord said to satan, "have you considered my servant job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears god and shuns evil?"
- 9 so satan answered the lord and said, "does job fear god for nothing?"
- 10 "have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
- 11 "but now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!"
- 12 so the lord said to satan, "behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." so satan went out from the presence of the lord.

**Job's suffering was Not caused by anything that he had done wrong, it was caused by what he had done right.**

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- ⊕ **Job had determined** to serve the Lord with His life, so he became a desirable target for the enemy.
- ⊕ **The enemy** will leave you alone until that day that you determine that you will really live for Jesus with all of your heart.
- ⊕ **The day** that you begin to really live for the Lord, look out, the enemy will ask for you.

In Luke chapter 22, Peter and the others had just concluded their “**Last Supper**” with Jesus.

- ⊕ **They had all entered a new dimension** in their relationship with Jesus, that of intimate fellowship by partaking of His Blood and His Body in Communion.
- ⊕ **Because** they had entered a new deeper relationship with Jesus, notice what Jesus tells Peter in just a few verses after they had communion:

### **Luke 22:15-17**

15 Then Jesus said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;

**Right after this new and deeper commitment to Jesus, notice what happens to Peter:**

### **Luke 22:31-32**

31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, **Satan has asked for you**, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Job became a target for the enemy because of his commitment, Peter now became a target because of his new commitment, and you will become a target IF you determine to make a deeper commitment.

- ⊕ **Will that knowledge** that a deeper commitment will also come deeper trials PREVENT YOU from making a deeper commitment.
- ⊕ **Or will we take up the challenge** and tell the Lord this morning that we want to go to the next level with Him, **EVEN IF IT COSTS US DEEPER TRIALS?**

**Job, and the man born blind had nothing wrong, but there is the possibility of suffering the consequences of sin THAT IS OUR FAULT.**

This man who has been paralyzed for 38 years, **is a different case altogether**, Jesus gives us a hint that HIS condition WAS caused by his 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.**"

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Apparently Jesus had not told the man he healed what his name was. Jesus vanished into the crowd as soon as the man took up his mat.

- ⊕ **In Verse 14**, it appears that the man went to the temple to thank God for his healing, this is where Jesus found him.

In verse 14 Jesus tells the man “*Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you*”.

### **There are at least 3 possibilities to what Jesus is saying here:**

1. Something that this man had done in his past caused his sickness and disability.
  - ⊕ **An unhealthy life style**, an exposure through sin to some kind of bacteria or virus that disabled him.
  - ⊕ **Some kind of risky action or behavior** such as a fall or injury that caused him to become paralyzed.
2. A particular attitude or belief caused the disability.
  - ⊕ **An ungrateful attitude**, or perhaps attributing his prosperity to his own success or hard work, when in fact it had come from the Lord.

King Nebuchadnezzar in the Book of Daniel attributed his success as the most powerful ruler in the world, to his own power, and the Lord put him into a field where he ate grass like a cow for 7 years till he acknowledged that the Lord is the one that prospers a person, not their own hard work.

#### **Daniel 4:30**

The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that **I have built** for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”

#### **Daniel 4:33**

That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

#### **Daniel 4:34**

And at the end of the 7 years I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. ...He does according to His will in the army of heaven

### **2 more attitudes that can cause sickness to overtake our bodies:**

- ⊕ **Unbelief**, rejection of the Lord’s witness to his heart of his need for salvation.
- ⊕ **Bitterness** because of unforgiveness towards someone that had done something to him or hurt him

In acts 8:23 it says that bitterness “**Poisons us**”.

**Many people become sick and actually die from bitterness and unforgiveness. There are many sicknesses documented as caused by bitterness and unforgiveness.**

### **Acts 8:23**

For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.

3. Jesus did not actually say that the man had sinned and therefore cause this sickness and disability.
  - ☞ **Jesus may have simply been warning** the man that even though he was healed physically, 38 years as an invalid is nothing compared to eternity separated from God, if this man fails now to live his life for the Lord.
  - ☞ **The man needed** to come to Jesus for salvation and have his sins removed by Jesus, which is even a greater miracle.

**The lessons for us this morning in John chapter 5 is that**

1. **If we have unconfused sin**, we need to bring that to the Lord this morning so He can forgive it, and prevent it from causing any further trials or sickness in our life.
2. **The Lord is calling us to a deeper relationship** with Him, and YES it will cost you further and deeper trials if you seek a deeper commitment to Him.
3. **The real question is:** “Are we just content to remain where we are right now, and never experience all that the Lord wants to do in our life, or would we pray this morning” “Lord Jesus I want to experience everything that you have planned for me, your will be done in my life...”
4. **Has bitterness and Unforgiveness taken root in our heart?** If so, we need to confess that bitterness and Unforgiveness today, so that it does not make us sick and “poison Us”. The ultimate result of an unforgiving attitude is that we will FALL SHORT of the GRACE the Lord has for us in our own life if we do not forgive.

### **Hebrews 12:14-15**

14 **Pursue peace** with all people...

15 looking carefully **lest anyone fall short of the grace of God**; lest **any root of bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;