

THE LIFE OF RESPONSE

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The WAY OF BLESSING



JOHN 5:1-14 ESV

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

²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.

³In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be healed?”

⁷The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”

⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath.

¹⁰So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.”

¹¹But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’”

¹²They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’”

¹³Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

This sick man does what we nearly all do. He limits God’s help to his own ideas and does not dare promise himself more than he conceives in his mind.

– *John Calvin*

The first essential towards receiving the power of Jesus is the intense desire for it. Jesus comes to us and says: ‘Do you really want to be changed?’ If in our inmost hearts we are well content to stay the way we are there can be no change for us. The desire for the better things must be surging in our hearts.

– *William Barclay*

Continued ►

Christ never says to anyone “No longer continue to sin” until He first says “Thou art made whole.” As we make contact with Him in an act of willing surrender, He gives us the power which enables us to live no longer under the mastery of sin.

– G. Campbell Morgan

NOTES

THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Robert Bateman
Oil on canvas, 1877



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Purpose

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INVITE OTHERS INTO LIFE WITH HIM**

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