

The Lame Man

(John 5: 1 – 18 then to 47)

Verse to memorize : (John 5: 24)

“Whoever hears my words and believes in him who sent me, has eternal life.”

Background:

Near the “Sheep Gate” in Jerusalem, there was a pool with 5 porches, called “Bethesda Pool” (also, “Sheep Pool”). A large crowd of sick people (blind, lame, paralysed,...) were lying in those porches. They were waiting for the water to move, because every now and then, an angel of the Lord went down into the pool and stirred up the water. The first sick person to go into the pool after the water was stirred up, was healed from whatever disease he had. There was a lame man there who had been ill for 38 years.

The Story of the Miracle:

On a Sabbath day, Jesus was going to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. On his way, he passed by “Bethesda Pool”. He saw this man and knew that he had been ill for such a long time. He approached from him and asked him: “Do you want to get well?” The man answered: “Sir, I have no one here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first.” Jesus said to him: “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Immediately the man got well, he picked up his mat and started walking.



The Jewish authorities saw the man and told him: “This is a Sabbath, it is against the law for you to carry your mat.” He told them that the man who cured him told him to do so, but he did not know who He was, as Jesus slipped away in the crowd after He healed him.

Afterwards, Jesus saw the man in the temple and said to him: “Listen, you are well now, so stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” The man then went and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him. So, they began to persecute Jesus because He has done this on a Sabbath. Jesus answered them: “My Father is always working, and I too must work.” This made them more determined to kill Jesus, because not only had He broken the Sabbath law, but also He had said that God was His own Father, making himself equal to God. Jesus started to explain to them the proofs that He is the Son of God.

Lessons from this miracle :

- § Jesus wants to help us, but He respects our will. Before healing the man, He asked him: “Do you want to get well?”
- § There is no “Wrong time” to do “Good things.” Any time is a suitable time for doing Good. Jesus healed the man on a Sabbath.
- § Can you imagine the frustration of this man? For “38” long years, he had been ill, and every time he tries to get into the water, someone else gets there first, as he was lame and had no one to put him in the pool. He never lost hope in God and so, he was healed at the end.

What do we learn to do :

- § Think of something good that you can do for someone (helping him/her, praying for him/her, asking about him/her, ...) Do not delay this. Today is the most suitable time to do it.
- § If you need something, pray again and again. Never loose hope in Jesus. He will definitely respond at the suitable time.
- § Do not forget this: Jesus knows all what we need. However, He still wants us to tell him what we need. So, pray and talk with Jesus, He will be very pleased to hear you.