"HE DIDN'T MOVE THE WATER- HE MOVED ME"

Have you ever prayed about something for so long that you eventually stopped expecting anything to change?

John 5:1–9

5 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. 2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. 3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?" 7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me." 8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" 9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!

But this miracle happened on the Sabbath

1. **YOU CAN BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH WHAT GOD NEVER INTENDED YOU TO ACCEPT**

Verse 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

Have you lived in an environment God never designed for you to live in?
Are you living with bitterness?
Are you living with unforgiveness?
Are you living with fear?
Are you living with spiritual complacency?
Do you feel you will always live with it just because it has been part of your life for years?
Have you let the length of your struggle determine the 'limitations' of God's power?
What have you learned to live with that God wants to address?

2. **STOP LIMITING GOD TO THE WAY YOU THINK HE SHOULD WORK**

Verse 6 6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?"

Why would Jesus ask him that question?

Verse 7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."

Jesus asked about the man's DESIRE, and the man answered with his DISAPPOINTMENT.

Have you ever become so focused on the solution you need from God, that you have overlooked what God is doing right in front of you?

Have you ever been looking for your circumstance to change when what you REALLY needed was your perspective to change?

Have you forgot God is not obligated to follow the instructions we attach to our prayers?

Isaiah 55:8 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

Can you stop telling God how to work and start trusting Him when He knows what is best?

3. **JESUS DOESN'T NEED THE CONDITIONS TO BE PERFECT TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

Verse 8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

Verse 9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,

Do you often think God can only work when everything is lined up perfectly?
Jesus didn't need the circumstances surrounding that man to change before He could change the man's condition.

Ephesians 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

What change is God trying to do inside of you today?

4. **SOMETIMES THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS WHAT GOD CHANGES IN YOU**

What is significant about Jesus telling the man to 'take up his bed'?

What had that bed become to the man the last 38 years? What limitations and disappointments had been experienced on that bed over the last 38 years?

But when Jesus healed him, something changed.
The very thing that had carried him was now something he could carry.

What once represented his weakness now became evidence of what Jesus had done.

What in your life has at one point represented pain and now is a reminder of what Jesus has done?
What hurt that once controlled you... has become part of a testimony of healing?
What failure that once embarrassed you has become a lesson in humility and grace?
What season nearly destroyed your faith but since has become the place where you learned to depend on God?
What pain or struggle are you dealing with right now that you need Jesus to redeem for good?

Healing doesn't always mean forgetting what you have been through. Sometimes healing means what you have been through no longer determines how you live.

5. **DON'T SPEND YOUR LIFE WAITING FOR WHAT GOD IS CALLING YOU TO DO**

Jesus called the man to RESPOND.

What are you sitting around waiting to do? Become more committed to Christ? Forgive someone? Serve? Surrender the THING that dishonors God in your life?

2 Corinthians 6:2 For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

What if that man had been so focused on the pool that he refused to listen to the voice of Jesus?

What if he had insisted that healing could only happen the way he expected?

He would have missed the significance of the One standing before him.

What are you focused on? Are you focused on what hasn't happened? Are you focused on the door that hasn't opened? Are you focused on your circumstances?

Can you pray instead of "change my situation" to "Lord, change me"?

Regardless of what happens around you, Jesus can begin a work within you.

What have you been waiting on that has kept you from responding to Jesus?

Sometimes we're waiting for God to move the water, while God is calling us to move forward with Him.

He didn't move the water.
He moved the man.
And that man's life was never the same!

Will you keep your eyes on Jesus and Respond to Him today, allowing Him to change you forever?