

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Back to Church Sunday
PPT "One Step Away"
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken from the NKJV.

Author Max Lucado said:

"If there are a thousand steps between us and God, he will take all but one. He will leave the final one for us. The choice is ours."

Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-4 "After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 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."

- Bethesda means House of Mercy
- The people who were gathered around the pool were miserable
- Jesus went to the place where the people were sick and miserable

The Paralyzed Man

John 5:5-7 "Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 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?' 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.'"

- The paralyzed man was focused on himself and the stirring of the water in the pool.
- Jesus questioned the man, but he did not answer it. He complained.
- The man did not recognize Jesus as a solution to his problem. He had his own plans.

Jesus Healed the Paralyzed Man

John 5:8-9 "Jesus said to him, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk.' And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath."

- Jesus had a plan to heal the paralyzed man.
- The man did what Jesus asked him to do and after 38 years of paralysis he was able to walk.
- Jesus wants to meet you in your place of misery.

Jesus Healed the man on the Sabbath

John 5:10-13 "The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, 'It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.' He answered them, 'He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' Then they asked him, 'Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and

walk?’ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.”

- Mercy was shown in the House of Mercy but the Jews had become so legalistic.
- These Jews were so fixed on the Law that they could not accept the miracle of Jesus because He had healed on the Sabbath.

YOU ARE ONE STEP AWAY!

- Are you stuck at your own pool of Bethesda?
- Jesus was there but the sick man did not recognize him.
- Jesus is right here with arms wide open.