

Do you want to get well?

- Kids can be persistent with their questions.
- Our grandson Timmy likes to ask “What’s that?”
- Or I always like the question that comes from the little ones “Why?”
- We have all been asked these questions and most of the time we have an answer.
- The question Jesus asks in our scripture today seems to be strange.
- Here we have a man that has been sick for 38 years. Can you imagine being sick for 38 years and this person asks would you like to be well?
- Some of us have a chronic illness, diabetes, heart issues, eye issues, arthritis, ETC.
- If I were to ask do you want to get well? What would your answer be?
- I don’t know about you but I would yes!!
- Yet when Jesus asked the answer wasn’t yes.
- **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.”**
- Maybe he misunderstood the question. It sounds to me he was telling Jesus why he wasn’t healed.
- The pools at Bethesda were thought to have healing powers. When the water bubbled up people thought that was an angel stirring the water and the first person in the pool would receive the healing power from that angel.
- In this story there was a crowds of people waiting to be healed.
- There was the blind, lame, paralyzed.
- Why did Jesus pick this man? Was it to show God’s power to someone that had suffered for so long?
- Maybe it is because Jesus wanted to show mercy toward this person.
- The name for this place is Bethesda and that means house of mercy.
- When I learned this and realized that Jesus is showing mercy in the house of mercy.
- There was a crowd there and I imagine there was always a crowd. No one in the crowd would help this man.
- They showed no mercy or compassion.
- The temple was in sight and the world showed no mercy to this person.
- I want us to think about the world we live in and how mercy is shown.
- How do we show mercy?
- Jesus shows us how we should show mercy.

- **Luke 4:18** “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, **19** and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.” **20** He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. **21** Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”
- Good news to the poor, captives being released, blind will see, oppressed will be set free. These are the things that are happening since Jesus came to this Earth. These mercies are done through Jesus.
- Jesus showed us to have concern for people in need.
- **Matthew 9:36 (NLT) — 36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- **Matthew 14:14 (NLT) — 14** Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
- **Matthew 15:32 (NLT) — 32** Then Jesus called his disciples and told them, “I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry, or they will faint along the way.”
- Jesus shows us that people’s needs are not just physical but also emotional and spiritual.
- Jesus is concerned about all the needs. We need to have the same compassion toward people.
- We need to address the needs of the whole person.
- When people asked Jesus for help He responded.
- **Matthew 8:2–3 (NLT) — 2** Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. “Lord,” the man said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.” **3** Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” And instantly the leprosy disappeared.
- **Matthew 20:30–34 (NLT) — 30** Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” **31** “Be quiet!” the crowd yelled at them. But they only shouted louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” **32** When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, “What do you want me to do for you?” **33** “Lord,” they said, “we want to see!” **34** Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed him.
- The greatest way Jesus showed us His mercy was through His sacrifice on the cross.

- **Ephesians 5:2 (NLT) — 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.**
- Yes, Jesus had the power to command angels to protect Him. He had the power to prevent the crucifixion but He chose mercy. He chose to have compassion on us.
- What are we to do in response to this great act of mercy?
- Our world is in need of compassion.
- We see poor people that have physical needs and the world calls them lazy. The world may only treat the symptom by giving them money.
- It has been my experience that we need to give more than money. We need to give our time to those that are struggling.
- Many times they have underlying issues that caused their poverty.
- Lack of education, addictions, not understanding how to follow a budget.
- We need to walk with them. Helping them to understand about the benefits of budgeting and also having the right group of friends.
- I volunteer at a ministry called Valor ministries. My role in this ministry is a mentor and I talk with people about their issues. Helping them to understand that some of the relationships they have are toxic for them or helping them write and follow a budget. The list goes on and on.
- We have people in this community that can benefit from this compassion we can show them.
- There are people in this church that may need someone to walk with them.
- Are we willing to walk with those that need help?