



Devotions for Nov 16-23, 2024

# "Courage To Be Healed"

Close Message Series, Week 7

**Scripture: John 5:1-17**

## The Lame Man

**After thirty-eight years of being paralyzed, the man had likely grown accustomed to his condition.** When Jesus asked if he wanted to be healed, instead of saying "yes," he shared his frustrations and obstacles, noting that he had no one to help him reach the pool. Rather than responding to the man's reasoning, Jesus simply tells him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." With this command, the man experiences immediate transformation—a healing that not only restores his body but also offers him a new beginning.

## Reflection Questions

1. **What does the man's response to Jesus' question, "Do you want to be healed?" reveal about his mindset?** Why might he focus on obstacles and excuses rather than on the possibility of healing?
2. **Do I truly want to be healed and transformed in all areas by Jesus?** Are there areas in my life where I resist change or make excuses? What might be holding me back from fully embracing Jesus' offer of healing and transformation?
3. **Am I seeking the benefits of Jesus without seeking Jesus Himself?** As I examine my desires, do I want what He can do for me more than simply being with Him? How can I prioritize my relationship with Him above simply seeking what He can provide?
4. **Am I open to spiritual transformation in Jesus,** even if physical healing doesn't happen, my expectations aren't met, or things don't go my way? Do I trust that God still loves me and has grand plans for my life?

## The Pharisees

**When the man was healed, the Pharisees saw him carrying his mat on the Sabbath and criticized him, saying it was unlawful.** Instead of celebrating this miraculous healing, they were more concerned with observing Sabbath rules. They questioned the man and later questioned Jesus, frustrated that the healing took place on a day they believed should be free from work. Their rigid focus on rules blinded them to the true significance of Jesus' actions and the miracle of God's power at work.

# Reflection Questions

1. **Why were the Pharisees more concerned with the Sabbath rules** than with the man's healing? What were they blind to?
2. **Do I celebrate when God heals and transforms those around me?** Does my attitude toward others reflect God's compassion? God's name, Yahweh, means "the God of compassion and grace." Does pride, anger, or judgment ever rise up in me when God shows grace to others I may deem undeserving? How can I cultivate a more compassionate heart?
3. **Are there areas in my life where a focus on rules or routines prevents me from** addressing deeper spaces I know I should invite God into? Or that blind me from seeing God at work around me?

## Jesus

**Jesus approaches the paralyzed man with compassion, asking if he wants to be healed.** This question goes beyond physical healing; Jesus invites the man to imagine a new life, free from the limitations he'd lived with for so long. When Jesus heals him, it's a gift that transcends physical restoration—Jesus also addresses the man's spiritual well-being, later encouraging him to "sin no more." Jesus' actions show His commitment to holistic healing, meeting both physical and spiritual needs, regardless of others' judgments, even if it means breaking the Pharisees' Sabbath rules.

# Reflection Questions

1. **What does Jesus' willingness to break Sabbath rules** to heal reveal about His priorities?
2. **Reflect on Jesus' holistic approach to healing.** He doesn't just heal the physical but desires to heal the spiritual, inner life as well. How have you allowed Jesus to heal your inner life over the last five years? What area do you desire more healing in the future?
3. **How can I embody Jesus' compassion in my relationships this week?** Think of ways to bring healing and encouragement to others, modeling Jesus' example.

## Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for Your compassion and healing power. I acknowledge my need for Your transformation in every area of my life. Help me to say "yes" to You fully, without excuses or reservations. Teach me to seek You above all else and to embrace the new life You offer. Give me the courage to take the next steps You've placed before me, trusting in Your strength and grace. Amen.*