

TOPIC: Christ Centered Life Part 2

THEME: Waiting on God's Timing.

John 5:1-15 NIV

‘Waiting on God's Timing’ what does this mean to you?

John 5:1-2

Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called '**Bethesda**' and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades

a) **‘Bethesda’ (a pool near the Ship Gate)**

Bethesda was a special pool, according to the Bible dictionary, the word Bethe-s-da means **‘House of Grace.’** A spring-fed pool at Jerusalem, surrounded by five covered colonnades or porches. (*Douglas, Tenney. Bible Dictionary*).

Outside this pool, sick people waited patiently to step down into these waters that were thought to have healing powers. These People believed that from time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. **The first one into the pool** after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had.

John 5:3-6

Here a **great number** of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. [4] [b] 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

b) The Waiting.

The invalid man had been in that condition for 38 years and Jesus was asking him whether he wanted to get well. Why would Jesus ask a such question? I believe that man must been waiting at that pool for a while for his miracle.

1) Many times, when storms and other challenges come knocking, or when our plans fail to materialize, some of our friends tell us to accept our condition and move on, Then we start to believe that may be this is the way we are supposed to be.

2) Other times you start blaming other people for your condition. (I don't have someone to help me to get into the water.

3) Sometimes when you've just accepted your condition and decided to move on, Jesus comes knocking at your door, "*Do you want to get well?*"

John 5:7-9

7 “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” 8 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

c) The Timing (John 5:11-12)

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” 11 But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

John 5:12-13

12 So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” 13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

John 5:14-15

14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

How does God's timing look for you?

When things don't end up the way we planned we blame ourselves or sometimes God.

Joseph and Mary would have done the same, they would have blamed God for interfering with their wedding plans.

1) How did waiting on God's timing work for Mary? Suddenly a baby was coming and because Joseph (her husband) was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (*Matthew 1:19*)

2) What about Joseph, When Jesus was born, his mother wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:7), can we say that God's timing was wrong?

3) It's good that we have diaries and calendars for planning and working smart, but sometimes these programs can take the place of God. it's very easy to try and fit God into our programs and plans, but remember God is not controlled by time.

4) God has His own sense of timing: 'With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day' (*2 Peter 3:8*). He has perfect timing: never early, never late. God is never in a hurry, but he is always on time.

Conclusion:

How well do you know the one you're waiting for?

Because if you know well the one you're waiting for, time will not be a problem. You can see clearly that this young man did not know who he was waiting for.

John 5:12-13

12 So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” 13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

The Lord is sovereign over the future (*Daniel 4:32*).

Martha thought that Jesus got it wrong by saying this; “*Lord,*” *Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* (John 11:21).

We get it wrong too.

Our key waiting time is the return of Jesus,
our physical healing will come and go, but
our spiritual healing will be for eternity.
That's what Jesus told the young man later in
these verses when He met him,

John 5:14-15

“See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” 15
The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

How is your relationship with Jesus? Jesus summarized this so well.

“Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

- (John 11:9-10)

When we live Christ centred life, His light becomes our guide, His waiting becomes our waiting, and His timing becomes our timing. Let us remain optimistic as we head towards 2023.

Isaiah Said that, *“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”* (Isa. 40:31).