

Series: A "5-Star" CHURCH

MESSAGE 1 - "A Place where people are being helped"

SCRIPTURE: Joh 5:1-9 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* (SHEEPGATE) a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue **Bethesda**, having five porches. In these lay a **great multitude** of **impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting** for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an **infirmity thirty and eight years**.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** The impotent man answered him, Sir, **I have no man**, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed, and walk**. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. (KJV)

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever been to a HOTEL or MOTEL or even a Restaurant where you wait for hours to be served and it looks like no one shows any interest in you. DO you return to such a place ? On the other hand have you been to a Hotel where you are met at the door by a butler who shows you where the admission counter is, and you are met at the counter with friendly well dressed people eager to assist you, Porters to carry your bags and show you your room ; Administration and Cleaning staff eager to make your stay a Happy one; TO SUCH A PLACE WE WILL ALWAYS RETURN !!! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH ? AREN'T WE ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE A FIVE STAR CHURCH . This is FIRST MESSAGE of this series and it is about "**THE CHURCH**" BEING THE "**PLACE**" (COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE)WHERE PEOPLE ARE BEING HELPED .

1. CHURCH must be PLACE OF GRACE/MERCY – Where the waters are stirred

The Hebrew name of this place = **Bethesda** - "house of mercy" or "flowing water"; and was believed to have a pool whose waters had curative powers

The CHURCH is compiled of PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED "GRACE/MERCY":

We read in Rom 6:23...(AMPL)- . For the wages which sin pays is death, but **the [bountiful] free gift of God** is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.

We also read in EPHES 2:8-9 ... For it is by **free grace** (God's unmerited favor) that you are **saved** (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

WE MUST REMEMBER "CHILDREN OF GOD ARE NOT PERFECT – JUST FORGIVEN...." They have experienced GRACE and MERCY

The difference between GRACE/MERCY –

GRACE – is when you get something you were NOT supposed to GET - like a GIFT

MERCY – is when you DON'T receive something you were bound to get – like a hiding

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS – in Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace** and truth.

AMPL - Joh 1:14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, **full of grace** (favor, loving-kindness) and truth. [Isa. 40:5.]

Series: A “5-Star” CHURCH

Joh 1:16 For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [*all had a share and we were all supplied with*] **one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.**

NOW THE APOSTLE PAUL IS WRITING in **2 Pet 3:18** = .. But **grow in grace** (undeserved favor, spiritual strength) and **recognition** and **knowledge** and **understanding** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (the Messiah). To Him [*be*] glory (honor, majesty, and splendor) both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (so be it)!

(GNB) But **continue to grow in the grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen.

SINCE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED , and RECEIVED , GRACE and WE ARE GROWING IN GRACE, OTHER PEOPLE , WITH OUR HELP, will experience it TOO.

2. WHAT DOES OUR WORLD LOOK LIKE

In the AMPLIFIES we read in - **John 5:3** In these lay a great number of **sick folk--some blind**, some **crippled**, and some **paralyzed** (shriveled up)-- waiting for the bubbling up of the water.

KJV = In these lay a great multitude of **impotent folk**, of **blind**, **halt**, **withered**, waiting for the **moving of the water**.

2.1 SICK / IMPOTENT/ = FEEBLE / STRENGTHLESS

The Greek word = “astheneo”- which means “to be weak , to be sick , to be an **impotent man** ; to be diseased, to be feeble, **to be without strength**, to be powerless ;2) to be needy and poor

1Co 9:22 **To the weak became I as weak**, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

2.2 BLIND = PROUD/ PUFFED UP

Greek = “tuphlos” - 1) blind ; 2) mentally blind ; **From the word: “ tuphoo {toof-o'-o}”** which means “ **to be proud** “ , “**to be lifted up with pride**” , “to be highminded “ , to be wrapped in a mist ; “to be **puffed up with pride**, ... to be puffed up with haughtiness or pride ; to be blinded with pride ; to be beclouded, besotted

Apart from the people being Physically blind, SOME PEOPLE ARE BLINDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES ; BLINDED FROM SEEING their own desperate situation, and TOO PROUD TO SURRENDER to Jesus.

2.3 LAME & CRIPPLE (HALT) - DEPRIVED of a FOOT (MAIMED)

Grieks = “cholos” = AV - lame 10, halt 4, cripple 1; 15 ; 1) lame - 1a) deprived of a foot, maimed **SOME PEOPLE ARE CRIPPLED ; LOST THEIR FUNCTION even SPIRITUALLY - HALTED BY THE DEVIL (LOST THEIR FOOTING)**

Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith **grounded and settled**, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard.....

2.4 PARALYZED / WITHERED / SCRIVELED UP - (DEPRIVED OF WATER)

Greek = “xeros” = descriptive of members of the **body deprived of their natural juices**, ; shrunk, wasted, withered ; like a land in distinction from the water - **DRY LAND**

David’s plea in Psa 63:1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for **thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;**

Series: A "5-Star" CHURCH

GOD'S PROMISE in Isa 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

3 TRAGEDIES THAT WE OBSERVE :

1. Vers 2 – A **GREAT MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE**
2. They were “ **waiting** for the moving of the water.” - **ACCEPTING TO RECEIVE ONLY OUT OFOUT OF WHATJoh 5:4** For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.
3. **Joh 5:5** And a certain man was there, which had **an infirmity thirty and eight years**

3. THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION ? – DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL ?

*VERS 6 -When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?***

AMPL = Do you want to become well? [*Are you really in earnest about getting well?*]

OTHER TRANSLATION = "Do you wish to have health and strength?"

The GREEK word = “ hugies ” – means “TO BE whole ; to be sound in body ; 2) to make one whole i.e. restore him to health ; 3) metaph. teaching which does not deviate from the truth WHICH MEANS THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THE TRUTH and therefore THEY ARE SICK, FEEBLE, BLINDED, WITHERED, MAIMED

JESUS'S QUESTION TO THE BLINDMAN –“ Bartimaeus” –

Mar 10:51 And Jesus said to him, **What do you want Me to do for you?** And the blind man said to Him, Master, let me receive my sight.

GOD CANNOT HELP YOU or ANYBODY ELSE unless they WANT TO

GOD WANT'S US TO BE SPECIFIC

SO WE AS A CHURCH CAN ONLY HELP THOSE WHO REALLY WANT TO BE HELPED....

4. THE ANSWER THE CHURCH CANNOT AFFORD .

John 5:7 - The impotent man answered him, **Sir, I have NO man**, when the water is troubled, **to put me into the pool**: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. (KJV)

WHERE IS THE CHURCH ? ARE WE MEETING THE NEED ?

We read in 1Pe 4:10-11 As **EVERY MAN** hath received the gift, *even so minister the same one to another*, as **GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD**. IF ANY MAN speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

WE AS A CHURCH HAVE RECEIVED THE GIFTS and THE EQUIPMENT TO HELP PEOPLE

THE EXCUSE :WHEN I WANT TO COME We realise that You get the EXCUSERS and ACCUSERS they always have a reason WHY THEY CAN'T or WON'T or DON't HAVE TO and the BLAME THE CHURCH for NOT CARING or being a bunch of HYPOCRITES

The Greek word = “ erchomai “ means to come from one place to another,to make one's appearance, to come into being, to arise, come forth, show itself, to be established, to become known,

EVERYTIME I TRY TO TO DO THISthen ANOTHER STEPPETH DOWN BEFORE ME. (KJV)

Most people in THIS SITUATION always have their eyes upon A PERSON instead of on GOD ,

Series: A "5-Star" CHURCH

According to Heb 12:2 (They are not) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

5. JESUS'S ANSWER must be THE CHURCH'S ANSWER

⁸ *Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.* ⁹ *And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. (KJV)*

RISE UP - GREEK word: = "egeiro" - 1a) to arouse from sleep, to awake ; to arouse from the sleep of death, to recall the dead to life ; to cause to rise from a seat or bed ; to produce, to bring before the public; to stir up, to cause to be born; to construct, to erect;

2Ti 2:25-26 In meekness **instructing those that oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will **give them repentance** to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that they may recover themselves* out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Jud 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jud 1:23 And others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

TAKE UP YOUR BED - (GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE) - GET OFF from YOUR BLESSED ASSURANCE - RISE UP and WALK

Griekse word = "airo" - 1) to raise up, elevate, lift up; 2) to take upon one's self and carry what has been raised up ; 3a) to move from its place ; 4) TO DIE FOR CERTAIN THINGS; ; 5) TO END CERTAIN THINGS

WALK - GRIEKS: = "peripateo" = "to walk - 1a) to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities ; ... to live -----LEWE ; TO TAKE CONTROL OF ONE'S LIFE ; 1b2) to conduct one's self --- to pass one's life successfully

PRAYER :

Father ; HELP US AS A CHURCH never to be ACCUSED of NOT BEING THERE where people NEED US, HELP us to be the INSTRUMENTS in your hands to render YOUR GRACE and MERCY to them that are IMPOTENT, SICK, FEEBLE, BLINDED, WITHERED and MAIMED, whether it is PHYSICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY or SPIRITUALLY. Help us to be YOUR HAND EXTENDED, Help us the teach them YOUR TRUTH so that YOUR TRUTH can set them free, and that they are able to RISE UP and WALK.

AMEN