

Podcast 11
Transcript

THE HARDWORK OF WHOLENESS
John 5:1-8

PAT

Hello Ladies,

Welcome to our Quest For Wholeness Podcast. My daughter Taylor Draughn, who has her Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and counsels in our local community is joining me. Taylor brings her professional perspective to the table, I bring the Scriptural perspective to the table and we both have hearts set on loving Jesus because we have both experienced life change and the good things of God in walking with Him. We are so glad you are joining us today as we have wholeness set before us as what we are striving to attain in our life.

Today's podcast is titled: THE HARDWORK OF WHOLENESS

That may sound like a strange title but the truth is that if we are going to experience wholeness, it will be hard work.

Today our lesson is in the NT in John 5:1-8.

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 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. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--**the blind, the lame, the paralyzed**. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 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?" "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." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

The first thing I want us to acknowledge is the fact that Jesus came for the sick and broken.

Therefore, we see that Jesus, The Healer, Shows Up In The Place Of The Sick And Broken

As I studied this passage, I found some interesting terminology being used in the original Greek language of the NT.

Mentally _____ **“blind”** – *tuphlos* - G5185 - meaning blind, mentally blind - **FOG**

- “to envelope with smoke, be unable to see clearly”

Think about driving down the road in the midst of fog or smoke. According to how thick the fog or smoke is determines your degree of visibility. One day when studying this, I was driving in a very thick fog. I realized that I could see inside the car very clearly, but once I looked past the outside of my car, I could not see the world around me clearly. I knew there were trees and pasture and animals I was passing because I had been this way many times. The thing I thought was so interesting was how I could see only what was in close proximity to my personal space. I was struck with the fact that being mentally blinded probably is very similar in all that we can see clearly is our self and what is closest to us. Maybe our own problems and circumstances.

Taylor what do you think about that in relation to being mentally blind?

TAYLOR

Being mentally blind has the possibility of having a negative impact on an individual's life in many ways. One thing that it can do is make you be blind to the world around you. When all you see is your situation and your problems, then you can no longer see the struggles of anyone else. I know for me that the times that I have been the most grateful about my life have been the times where I saw pain and suffering that was occurring out in the world. It made me look at my situation and realize the blessings that I do have not just the issues that I am facing. If you can imagine being mentally blind can make you a very selfish individual. Before long every conversation with others becomes about how bad your situation is, so you never gain the opportunity to minister to others. If there is any reason that somebody would lose friends, I would say that this is a major reason. I would encourage anyone who after hearing this would say that is possibly something you struggle with to ask God to clear away the fog. Ask Him to make you aware of other's situations and maybe even how you can help. One thing I do know is that the main way to overcome negativity about your own life is to step out and start to minister to others in far worse situations than your own. Before you know it you will notice all the blessings that you have rather than all the issues you are facing.

PAT

The next word I want to look at is the original Greek word for lame, *cholos* – it means lame but it means to be lame physically or spiritually. In fact it is used in a spiritual sense in Hebrews 12:13.

Hebrews 12:12-13

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Spiritually _____ **“lame”** – *cholos* - G5560 meaning lame (physical or spiritual) - In Hebrews 12:13 - lameness in a spiritual sense

I can't help but recognize the many times Jesus healed someone who was lame and told them to go and sin no more. We know that there can be a correlation to physical sickness and disease to being spiritually sick and diseased. Not every time can this be said because Jesus said in John 11:4 that Lazarus' sickness was to bring God glory. Then we see in John 9 that Jesus said when speaking of a man who had been blind since birth that Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. John 9:3.

But the reality is that sometimes our physical bodies suffer because of our spiritual state. That is what we see in this story because after Jesus healed the man, in John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

Physically _____ **“paralyzed”** – *xeros* – G3584 -meaning dry (used of the body or its members)- **Living Water** - John 4:13-14 and 7:37-

38

Taylor can you speak to seeing a connection with physical disease and our spiritual state. Have you seen this in anyway through your counseling practice?

Taylor

I have definitely seen a connection, and research also points to that there is a connection between our physical and spiritual health. First off, as Christ followers we are taught to abstain from things that could harm our physical health like drunkenness and substance abuse. Researchers have been able to back this claim by showing that “spiritual” people are less prone to destructive behaviors, have less stress, and have a greater total life satisfaction. Spirituality has also been shown to reduce depression, improve blood pressure, and boost the immune system. Talk about an added great benefit to being a Christ follower! Also as a Christ follower when we have fully given everything over to God one of the many benefits is less stress.

When you know who is in control and the fact that you have given him control, what do you have to worry about? Some of the physical symptoms of stress are headaches, insomnia, and low energy. Some of the long term effects of stress include cardiovascular disease, mental health issues, and gastrointestinal problems. For a long time, researchers would completely debunk the idea that there is a connection between spiritual and physical health, but after the research has piled up, they have had to admit to the fact that there is definitely a connection.

PAT

The terminology used here points out that Jesus came to heal the **physically, mentally, and spiritually** sick.

TAYLOR

One aspect about what Christ did for us that I think we can often overlook is how he came to bring us healing today. He came to give us eternal salvation, but He wanted to do more than that for us. He wants us to live on this earth today whole and made new through Him. Another important aspect to this is how we are healed not just physically. Often times when the word healing is said, the main thing our mind goes to is physical healing, but like mom pointed out there are many types of healing that we need that He came to give us. When thinking about healing, my mind always goes to how much healing have we not received because we do not ask. In Matthew 13:58, it states: "And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith". I know that we have talked about this before, but it worth noting again. Our level of faith in God has a direct relationship on what he does in our life. The fact is that you have nothing to lose when trusting in God for healing but you have everything to lose by not.

Pat -

Your issues are not outside the **realm** of His abilities or **purpose**.

Isaiah 61:1-21 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; **2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, Jesus came to bring his offerings of undeserved gifts to the whosoever.

- Jesus came to bring his offerings of undeserved gifts to the whosoever.

I. Jesus – no respecter of persons

- i. Acts 10:34 - Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.- Jesus came to heal the sick no matter what their social status was.
- ii. The man had a condition, an "Infirmity" – *astheneia* – meaning – "to be sick or weak, are the most common expressions for illness and are used in the comprehensive sense of the **whole** man" (**vs. 5**)

Taylor – Life in Jesus's day wasn't probably much different than it is today especially concerning social status. The Saducees and Pharisees were the religious elite in their day. They were incredibly religious and as such they would walk around with their nose in the air looking down at others that didn't fit into the category they believed themselves to be in. The great thing about Jesus is that

He completely shattered this notion. On one of the many occasions that the Pharisees were trying to condemn Jesus to no avail, they questioned why He eats with the tax collectors and sinners. Jesus's response is priceless. He states: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'^[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Jesus came for the Pharisees also but they didn't want anything to do with Jesus, but the tax collectors and sinners were desperate for Him and his teaching. Jesus shattered every notion of social status, and He still does today. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus made the playing field even for all of mercy and us to receive healing. It all just depends on whether or not you are willing to accept Him.

John continually pointed out the spiritual sickness with the words that he used.

Here in John 5:1-8, Jesus is with a great multitude of sick people. Jesus went to a "pool below the temple where the **helpless dregs** of society lay in a **pathetic** state. Most '**proper**' people probably **avoided** places where they had to pass among the sick and suffering because it was an **uncomfortable** setting and because of the potential for **violation** of ritual purity rules." *Gerald L. Borchert, The New American Commentary, pp. 231-232*

Pat

II. Dependence on Man And Miracles Disappoints And Discourages.

Taylor – In John 5, you see how this man has been dependent on other peoples help in order to receive healing and for thirty eight years he had been let down by humans who will always let him down. The fact is that when we depend on others to heal us rather than Jesus; you will always be let down and it will take much longer. I believe that this man was simply hoping that something miraculous would happen and he would be healed. Which with God there is always that possibility, but how often do we have to work for our healing? When you think about individuals that have struggled with substance abuse, eating disorders, and any form of addiction, in order for these individuals to be healed they had to be willing to work not just wait around for God to heal them. When thinking about this man in this helpless state the question that pops up in my mind is: What would you be willing to do if you were told that something would heal a burdensome ailment? If you really wanted it, wouldn't you move heaven and earth to get there? When asking these questions, I have to come to the conclusion that he didn't really want to be healed, because with healing came responsibility.

- A. Dependence any source other than Jesus is an **artificial source**, a counterfeit, which holds us down and keeps us waiting.

Pat –

Asolutely, it does! Not only did this man depend on an artificial source but he also believed in a superstition. There was a superstition in his day that there was an angel that stirred the water and when the water was stirred the first one to step in the water would be healed. The truth is: Every superstition is based on the belief of a lie.

Let's talk about some possible artificial sources or superstitions we might sometime buy into.

I have loved sports my whole life and I have seen some superstitious people play sports. You may have heard of the famous baseball players, Manny Ramirez and Babe Ruth. One of Manny Ramirez's team mates said, He'll wear somebody's socks or shirt if a player's been hot. You'll go to your locker and go 'Where's my . . . undershirt?' And guys are like: 'Oh, Manny may have it.' If somebody's hot on the team and he's not, he'll wear their socks, their shirt, anything."

Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his cap while playing baseball, and he used to change it every two innings. He also made a habit of stepping on second base en route to the outfield.

My childhood neighbor who was a grown man, one day called in to work sick because on his way to work a black cat ran across the street in front of him. He backed his car up so as not to cross the black cat's path for fear of bad luck based on a superstition or maybe I should say his fear was based on a lie.

These may be a little wacky sounding to many of us, but the truth is:

The enemy will always keep artificial sources of power or healing in front of us to distract us from the truth.

Taylor what do you think about artificial sources of healing?

Taylor:

When thinking about an artificial source of healing, my mind goes to how us as humans use many unhealthy habits to hopefully bring healing. The main one that comes to mind is abusing drugs and alcohol. It might be difficult at first to see the connection of using substances to a search for healing, but think about it for a minute. Especially when you are talking about addiction, these substances are used to lessen the hurt of life, numb the senses, and escape from reality. All of these reasons point back to temporary healing. Obviously I am not saying that you drinking a glass of wine at dinner means that you are searching for healing through alcohol, but when it is used as a way to cope this can often lead to addiction. The best explanation I have heard of this was in grad school. The professor discussed that the addiction starts out innocently with a desire to feel that high and escape, but what happens is that over time you become used to the high to where you need more and more until you are using it to simply reach a level that is normal not even a high any more. An artificial source of healing will never truly heal you and it will never give you the long-lasting effects that healing from our God offers.

Pat -

JEREMIAH 9:23 - Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; Why does God's word say this because anytime we trust in man's wisdom, might or riches, we are trusting in an artificial resource.

- Titanic book

"For she was the biggest ship that had ever been in the world. She implied the utmost strength of construction, the furthest achievement in efficiency, the bewildering embodiment of an immense multitude of luxuries for which only the richest of the earth could pay. The cost of the Titanic was tremendous – it had taken many millions of dollars – many months to complete her. Besides (and best of all) she was practically unsinkable her owners said; pierce her hull anywhere, and behind was a water tight bulkhead, a sure defense to flout the floods and hold the angry ocean from its prey."

Sometimes we may not believe in a superstition but an artificial resource. The people who trusted in the Titanic found that their belief was based on something that was artificial. Jeremiah 9:23 makes me think that they might have trusted in the wisdom, might, and riches of man and we all know the tragic end of the Titanic.

So Ladies trust in your God who is the Source of all that you need. He is the Healer. He is the one who makes you and I whole. No matter what healing we need, physical, mental, and/or spiritual, He is the only one who truly can be trusted.

So glad you joined us! Hope you find encouragement and inspiration from these free podcasts! We want to hear from you! You can contact me or Taylor through the Onfire Ministries website. www.onfire-ministries.org - until next time, choose blessing!