

# Staying **Hopeful**, when things seem **Hopeless**

## (The **Healing** of the **Paralytic**)

(John 5:1-15)

### I. The *Desperate* Circumstances (5:1-4)

After these things there was a **feast** of the **Jews**,  
and **Jesus** went up to **Jerusalem**.

Now there is in **Jerusalem** by the sheep *gate* a **pool**, which is called  
in Hebrew **Bethesda**, having **five porticoes**.

In these lay a **great multitude** of those who were **sick, blind, lame**,  
and **withered**, [waiting for the moving of the waters;  
for an **angel** of the **Lord** went down at **certain seasons** into the **pool**  
and **stirred up** the **water**; whoever then **first**, after the **stirring up** of  
the **water**, stepped in was **made well** from whatever **disease**  
with which he was afflicted.

### II. The *Divine* Healing (5:5-9)

And a **man** was there who had been **thirty-eight years** in his **sickness**.

When **Jesus** saw him **lying there**, and **knew** he had already been  
a **long time** *in that condition*, **He** said to him,  
“**Do you wish to get well?**”

The **sick man** answered **Him**,  
“**Sir**, I have **no man** to put me in the **pool** when the **water**  
is **stirred up**, but while I am coming, **another** steps down before me.”

**Jesus** said to him, “**Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.**”

**Immediately** the **man became well**,  
and **picked up** his **pallet** and *began to walk*.  
Now it was the **Sabbath** on that day.

### III. The *Disapproving* Inquiry (5:10-13)

So the **Jews** were saying to **him** who was **cured**,  
“It is the **Sabbath**, and it is **not** **permissible** for you to **carry your pallet.**”

But **he** answered them,  
“**He who made me well** was the **one** who said to me,  
‘**Pick up** your pallet and **walk.**’ ”

They asked him, “**Who** is the man who said to you,  
‘**Pick up your pallet and walk?**’”

But the man who was healed did **not know** who it was,  
for **Jesus** had **slipped away** while there was a **crowd** in *that* place.

#### IV. The *Denunciation of Sin* (5:14-15)

Afterward **Jesus found him** in the **temple** and said to **him**,  
“Behold, **you** have **become well**; **do not sin** anymore,  
so that nothing **worse** may befall you.”

The man went away, and **told** the **Jews**  
that it was **Jesus** who had **made him well**.

### Summary Observations →

#### A. The *Persistence* of **Hope**, in the *face* of **Hopelessness**

Now there is in **Jerusalem**... a **pool**,... having five porticoes.  
In these lay a **multitude** of those who were **sick, blind lame, and withered**,  
[waiting for the moving of the waters;...] (5:1-2)

#### B. The *Presence* of the **Divine**, in the *midst* of **Desperation**

The **Spirit of the Lord GOD** is upon me,  
because the **LORD** has **anointed me**  
to bring **good news** to the **afflicted**;

**He** has **sent me** to **bind** the **brokenhearted**,  
to proclaim **liberty** to **captives** and **freedom to prisoners**;  
(Isaiah 61:1)  
(see also Matthew 11:2-5, Psalm 72:11-13)

#### C. The *Power* of the **Messiah** to **Heal Miraculously**

A man was there who had been **thirty-eight years** in his **sickness**...  
**Jesus** said to him, “**Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.**”  
**Immediately** the man became **well**... (5:5, 8-9a)

#### D. The *Posturing* of the **Jewish Leaders**

So the **Jews** were saying **to him** who was **cured**,

“It is **the Sabbath**, and it is **not permissible** for you to **carry your pallet.**”

But **he** answered them, “**He** who **made me well** was the **one** who said to me, “**Pick up *your pallet* and walk.**” (5:10-11)

#### E. The ***Priority*** of a **Walk** of **Righteousness**

“Behold, **you** have become **well**; **do not sin anymore**, so that **nothing worse** may **befall you.**” (5:14b)

## Personal Application So **How** do we regain **Hope** when we *feel* **Hopeless?**

### 1. We ***Renew*** our **Faith** in God’s **Love** for us

I (Jeremiah) am the man who has seen **affliction** because of the **rod** of ***His wrath***...

**My soul** has been **rejected** from ***peace***;  
I have **forgotten *happiness***.

So I say, “**My strength** has ***perished***,  
and so **has my hope** from the **LORD...**”

This I ***recall*** to my mind, therefore I have **hope**.

The LORD’S **lovingkindnesses** indeed **never cease**,  
for **His compassions** **never fail**. *They are new every morning*;  
great is **Your faithfulness**.  
(Lamentations 3:1, 17-18, 21-23)

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But in **all these things** we overwhelmingly ***conquer***  
through **Him** who **loved us**. For I am **convinced** that  
neither **death**, nor **life**, nor **angels**, nor **principalities**, nor things **present**,  
nor things **to come**, nor **powers**, nor **height**, nor **depth**, nor any other  
**created thing**, will be able to ***separate us*** from the **love of God**,  
which is **in Messiah Jesus** our **Lord**. (Romans 8:37-39)

### 2. We ***Rest*** in our **Eternal Salvation**

But we should always **give thanks** to **God** for ***you***, brethren **beloved**  
by the **Lord**, because **God** has ***chosen you*** from the **beginning**  
for **salvation** through ***sanctification*** by the **Spirit** and ***faith*** in the **truth...**

Now may our **Lord Jesus the Messiah Himself** and **God our Father**,

who has **loved us** and given us **eternal comfort** and **good hope** by **grace, comfort** and **strengthen your hearts** in every **good work** and **word**.  
(II Thessalonians 2:13, 16-17)

3. We **Remember** that we have a “**Living Hope**” in **Messiah**

“**Blessed be the God and Father** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**, who according to **His great mercy** has caused **us** to be **born again** to a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of **Jesus the Messiah** from the **dead**,

to *obtain* an **inheritance** *which is imperishable... reserved in heaven for you,..*  
(I Peter 1:3-4)

4. We **Recall** past **Examples** of **Hope** and **Perseverance**

For whatever was **written** in **earlier times** was **written** for our **instruction**, so that through **perseverance** and the **encouragement** of the **Scriptures** we might have **hope**. (Romans 15:4)

5. We **Reflect** on the “**Blessed Hope**” of the **Return** of the **Lord**

For the **grace of God** has **appeared**, bringing **salvation** to **all men**, instructing us to deny **ungodliness** and **worldly desires**

and to live **sensibly, righteously** and **godly** in the present age, looking for the **blessed hope** and the **appearing** of the **glory** of our great **God and Savior, Messiah Jesus,..** (Titus 2:11-13)

6. We **Revive our Hope** by **committing** ourselves to **share** the **good news** of our **Messianic Hope**

...but **sanctify Messiah as Lord** in **your hearts**, always **being ready** to make a **defense** to **everyone** who asks **you** to give an **account** for **the hope** that is **in you**, yet with **gentleness** and **reverence;..** (I Peter 3:15)

7. We **Rely** on the **God of Hope**, who **empowers us** with **Joy** and **Hope**

Now may the **God of hope** fill you with **all joy** and **peace** in **believing**, so that you will **abound in hope** by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.  
(Romans 15:13)

**Closing Text**→“For I know **the plans** that I have **for you**,” declares the **LORD**, “**plans** for **your welfare** and **not for calamity** to give you a **future** and a **hope**.” (Jeremiah 29:11)