

# In the midst of the crowd- God sees THE MAN

*Pastor Othniel James*

**Main Scripture:** John 5: 1- 9

**Supporting Scriptures:** Luke 19: 10; Luke 5:31; 1 John 4: 9-10; Hebrews 4: 13; Romans 1:25; Jeremiah 17: 5-8

## **Notes:**

It was a feast of the Jews that brought Jesus to Jerusalem and while he was there he happened to pass by the sheep gate and hear the sheep gate was the pool of Bethesda with 5 covered porches. What he saw at the pool, crowds of sick people. Crowds, not just a handful or just a crowd but crowds. John describes them as blind lame and paralyzed laying on the porches. Those who were deformed and paralyzed perhaps from birth. Those who were in great need of healing and deliverance but had no answer to their situation. John said Jesus walked in the midst of the crowds and he saw a man. What a lovely statement! It's a picture of chaos, gloom, doom, and darkness reflecting the condition of our world. A world that can not heal itself and is filled with chaos. Let's consider what is happening on the dace of this globe the confusion and pain and gloom as we are going. through this pandemic and so often we can become part of this condition of humanity. Seemingly we lose our identity and we become part of the statistic. We hear of the numbers of those who have been tested positive and the numbers of those who are battling for life and those who have lost their life. Not very often do we get an identity to the stats. But these are loved ones and friends and family. So is the picture of darkness that all have found themselves without hope outside of Christ Jesus. Jesus came in the midst of the crowd and his eyes were fastened on an individual, lying down who was sick for 38 years and Jesus saw him and recognized this man was sick for 38 years. Let's consider, when we look on the KJV the pool of Bethesda, an angel would go down into the pool and trouble water an interpretation included in the text. But we see such a pool that has been currently discovered. Many of us believe that there was a season where the angel went down at a certain season and troubled the water and they believe that whoever entered the water was healed from their condition. And so we understand that this is the desperate need of all the individual present. We understand that there are many reasons, good reasons, that this pool was not necessarily a pool similar to the one like the pool of Siloam but in Jerusalem while under the control of the Roman Empire and was heavily influenced by the Greek. We take note that this pool was considered to be (as archeologist has discovered) to be devoted to the goddess exception - the goddess who heals. The pool was fed by two ducks from the dam that when it flowed in the water was troubled. So many ignorant folks sat by the pool and waited for its stirring believing that they could be healed. We have a man hoping to enter that water to be made whole. Brothers and sisters, I want us to understand that there something beautiful seen in the act of Jesus. God finding man- a picture of Love. Ever since we have plunged ourselves into the darkness there is no way for man to find God. Man cannot find God on his own merit. Jesus came in the midst of the crown, as many of us are sitting beside our pool, hoping and trusting waiting for something to happen that we can be made whole.

Luke 19: 10; Luke 5:31; 1 John 4: 9-10

It's the greatest need of man - Love. This need answers the darkness and chaos of this world and the hopelessness and depravity of man. Love came walking in the midst of the crowd and saw a man.

When Jesus saw him and knew he was ill for a long time. It is true that nothing is hidden from God everything is exposed before his eyes. (Hebrews 4: 13) Jesus saw this man as he sees you and love is about

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to have a conversation with you. God is interested in man. Jesus saw this man and knew he was ill for a long time. Understand that the Lord Jesus' eyes recognize the brokenness of the man. We can become very spiritual but let's consider the man Christ Jesus. He saw a man who was ill for 38 years. What about this man's condition that has shown so much on his physical state? many times a man may be well physically but a bigger story is told when you look at him in the face and you see the hopelessness and suffering and brokenness. May you also consider the lost state of man. This man Christ Jesus saw an individual and knew he was ill. Many of us have found ourselves in a state where we are just another statistic but Jesus says I want to know you as the man. Broken homes, painful relationships, tragedy after tragedy some of us will never share them with an individual some of us don't even want to remember it so to soothe ourselves we drink alcohol, drugs have become the norm. Why? I don't want to deal with the pain. No hope and trapped in a cycle. 38 years is a long time but Jesus stopped by just like he is stopping by this morning.

This pool became an institution for this man. Jesus was asking is there in you a desire to be made whole?

The crisis of men is that Man trust more in the creation rather than the creator (Romans 1:25)

Jeremiah 17: 5-8

There are many who trust in the arms of flesh or that something supernatural can take place so they considered the crystal balls and psychics. Many have handed over a great deal of money - a man trying to answer his own problem. It's now 38 years and you haven't gotten over it. This man said I have no man, I have no one - let's consider his statement and I am speaking as you reflect on your own life and see that his statement is similar to your own life - I have no one.

The loneliness of Ma. No matter how much we acquire in this life. Man separated from his creator is lonely. 38 years but he did not have anyone - no friend no brother. After the parties and the good times, you face the moment of loneliness. The parties last only for a moment. the drinking and drugs for a moment. You need a friend to deal with your loneliness you need one who sticks closer than a brother. He lost his desire - like so many of us that started out with ambitions to being made whole but then after a while the idea is foreign to us and because there is no answer to it we look to others.

Love is the gift that will answer the hopelessness of man. We have not experienced Love if we have not come in contact with Jesus. How can you say it's love when you show me only for a season.

Jesus said when he listened to the man, stand up take up your bed and walk.

Here some have not yet considered who Jesus is but were remember that the bible told us that the world was in darkness and he moved on the face of the deep and said let there blight. The light of man is one of chaos but love, Jesus, comes to bring order to the chaos.

Is there a desire in you to be made whole? what are your 38 years? maybe you have been here for a long while and you have been struggling and losing your firm grip you have not yet surrendered to the Lord and so you trust in the creation than in the creator. Consider what your 38 years are? what identify you with the crowd? why are you hopeless and lonely. Jesus is the answer. All it takes is a word from the creator.

Jesus wanted the man to understand that in him was a creative word for his situation. Consider the man Christ Jesus the living word that came from heaven. He is walking intentionally to you. He does not want

you to trust in the medium of men - what is a pool when the living word is standing before. I come with a word to release you from the darkness you have found yourself in.

I'm talking about being made whole to what God desires for you - do you want to be made whole. Sometimes we get so carried away we just want to preach truth to people but here Jesus was extending his grace I present the Lord Jesus before you. Jesus says I know you I know when the last friend left you and watch when mother and father forsook you I watched you in your tears I watched others abuse you I watch when you found pleasure with drugs. I know that's not what you desired but it took away your pain for a while. I watched when all men rejected you I watched that's why I came into the crowd. I watched when you did things to get the attention of men but they never looked on you. Hand me the needle you don't need it, give me those condoms because I will speak into your life and my words will create in you something that will make you whole. Delete those numbers because you will fall in love with one who will love you like no other can. Come in me there is life, Come, in me there is hope. Don't try to figure it out come. Don't hook up with someone that doesn't believe in me. Hand the pain over. that anxiety is not you, it's your experience, hand it to me.

You don't have to wait to feel something is happening to you. I'm talking to those who have come to Jesus but there are still areas in your life you need to let go of. Keep on believing the more you read about him and expose your mind to who he is you won't be part of this crowd anymore.