

Stirring Spiritual Waters

29 November 2005

While listening to a pastor preach on the miracle at the Pool of Bethesda, the Lord began to impress me of the urgency of the time in which we live. It IS the day of the Lord, IT IS TIME to give the truth of the Father and Son. Most Christian organizations today are teaching a false Christ, and it is time to stir their waters; it is time to destroy the myths of the angry God, and the demand of a sacrifice to appease Him. People need to understand the love of God, and to make His love personal.

Jn 5:1-9: *1. After these things there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2. Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porches. 3. In these lay a multitude of them that were sick, blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4. for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the waters stepped in was made whole, with whatsoever disease he was holden. 5. And a certain man was there, who had been thirty and eight years in his infirmity. 6. When Jesus saw him lying, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Would thou be made whole? 7. The sick 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 steps down before me. 8. Jesus saith unto him, Arise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9. And straightway the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked. Now it was the sabbath on that day.* (American Standard)

Bethesda: This word, derived from Hebrew, means “House of Mercy.” The multitude of the lame, weak, cripple and blind people at pool of Bethesda were that part of the church in that day who had been taught that their physical diseases were because of some great sin in their lives (cf Jn 9:2). As a type today, they represent the body of believers who are spiritually lame, blind and without strength (cf Rev 3:17). They are seeking the house of mercy, and like the Publican who said: *God be merciful to me a sinner*, they lie at the sheep gate of New Jerusalem of which Christ is the door of the sheep (Jn 10:7). HE IS the house of mercy! And, just as they were waiting for an angel to stir the water at an appointed time, the people today are awaiting a messenger of truth to stir the thinking of the religious world. **Ps 5:6-7:** *6. Thou shalt destroy them that speak [lies]: the Lord will abhor the bloody (fleshly) and deceitful man. 7. But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.* [original] (explanation)

Why, out of a great multitude, did Jesus pick this one man to heal, and leave the rest in their pitiful condition? What was this feast day? Perhaps the key is in what we know about the man healed by Jesus. He was unable to get into the water by his own power; He had an infirmity 38 years; He lay in one of five covered porches by the pool, which was by the sheep gate; Jesus came to him, and healed him on the Sabbath.

Thirty-Eight Years: Now, I know God only gives information for a reason, which is to teach us. The man, impotent for 38 years, could not help himself. **Deut 2:14:** *14. And the space in which we came from Kadesh-Barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out ⁽⁸⁵⁵²⁾ from among the host, as the Lord swore unto them... 16. So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed ⁽⁸⁵⁵²⁾ and dead from among the people.* In the experience of Israel, twelve spies entered the promised land to check it out. When they brought the report back, ten said there was no way Israel could win against the giants of the land. The people sided with the ten and began to rebel against the Lord and speak against Moses and Aaron (Num 13 & 14). Only Joshua and Caleb went into Canaan, while the rest of the congregation, from 20 years and up died in the wilderness.

Considering these verses allegorically, the wilderness, a dry and uninhabited land, is a symbol of a person when, first coming to the Lord, they are dry of the living water (cf Jer 2:2, 6). They are influenced by the Spirit of Christ, but their minds are not completely inhabited by his spirit. The ‘men of war’ are the adversarial thoughts, or the misunderstanding of God we have in the beginning. Because of this confusion about God, we fought against Him until such time we were led to understand.. “Wasted out & consumed” are the same Hebrew word - *tamam* ⁽⁸⁵⁵²⁾, which carries the primary meaning of “to be complete, be finished, be at an end.” Wilderness wandering is the time when a person is learning to listen to God in the conscience. The war is described in Revelation 12 between Michael and the dragon (serpent). It is mankind’s adversarial attitude toward God which needs to be destroyed. When a person comes to the point of ‘death to self’, then God can take them into the promised land - a new and living way. Then, they become sanctified ‘men of war’ slaying the giants in the land, i.e. sin problems destroyed by receiving a new understanding and walking in that light.

Five Porches: The porches were covered colonnades. Five is a symbol for grace, which when received results in having Christ’s faith. The covered porches protected the people from the sun. They symbolize the covering of truth God puts over the sincere in heart (cf Ex 25:20) so they are shielded from man’s understanding (unsanctified sun) about God, the false teachings of a worldly church. **Ps 91:4:** *He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.* These are people faithfully living according to what they have been taught by parents, pastors, etc. (unrighteous mammon), so they can be trusted with the true riches (God’s understanding), but the experience must be personal.

A feast of the Jews: There were three major feasts of the Jews at which all males were to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem (Deut 16:16). These were excellent times to evangelize the people in one place. These set times were “holy convocations” (Lev 23:2), appointed by God as types that teach. There are several holy days of the Jews, so which is this one? According to John 2:13, 23 and 4:45, Jesus had just attended the Passover. So, this was probably the day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day). This one-day holiday came 50 days after the wave offering during Passover (Lev 23:9-16). Why mention this feast in the story? Pentecost is a harvest celebration, where two waves loaves are offered, being made from first fruits of the wheat and baked with leaven. Most associate Pentecost only with the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. But note the following:

It was 50 days from the exodus when God gave the law at Mt Sinai, which we first understood with wilderness thinking (man’s viewpoint). When Jesus came to us at the appointed time (our Pentecost in the promised land, or new way of thinking) we began to see the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:2), and receive understanding of the law by letting the Savior interpret it. **2 Cor 3:5-6:** *5. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is from the God; 6. Who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.* [Greek Interlinear] A literal interpretation of the Bible kills spiritual life; The Spirit of Truth is giving spiritual life. Jesus said: *The words I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life* (Jn 6:63).

Pentecost in the Old Testament is called Feast of Weeks, Harvest or First Fruits (Ex 34:22; 23:16; Deut 16:10). Spiritually, it is a time of gathering in the truth for the individual, in preparation of joyfully proclaiming the good news (Feast of Trumpets) to others. Just as the word spread in Jesus’ day so that the other impotent people at the pool of Bethesda could eventually come to Jesus for healing, the word will spread from a few faithful at the beginning, to the spiritually sick of today’s church, so that they will be able gather in the truth from the Lord of truth (Jn 14:6) and be healed.

This One Man: The one Jesus healed had reached a point where he knew that without help he could not enter

the water agitated by an angel. Allegorically, this man represents the first fruits of the church at large. An earthly messenger stirs the mind with truth, but it is the Son of God who immerses them in a holy spirit, our inheritance promised to Abraham (Gal 3:14, 18). At Passover our first fruits was raw grain, and we ate bread not leavened with truth (the unrighteous mammon of man's understanding). At our Pentecost we can now offer two loaves of bread baked with leaven - i.e. a complete understanding of the Father and Son.

Summary: Today, God's people are the Lord's sheep, and the entire church is weak, without power, having no spiritual strength. Why do they not have any strength? Because their spiritual waters are polluted and have need of refreshing. **Jer 2:13**: *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.* Generally, the people of God have forsaken the living truth, living by man's understanding of spiritual things. **Pr 18:4**: *The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.* The deep waters are the waters of the sea - the wicked's way of thinking (cf Isa 57:20-21). But living waters are like a flowing brook, like living waters from the throne of God (cf Eze 47:1; Joel 3:18). **Deut 32:1-2**: *1. Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

Why did Jesus heal the man on the Sabbath? The seventh day is a symbol of entering the rest of God. Literal Israel never entered the spiritual Sabbath: **Heb 3:17-18**: *17. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18. And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19. So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.* The church today does not keep the Sabbath, although some keep the day. The Sabbath is the day that represents a completed perfection in spiritual understanding, which eliminates sin from our lives. The 144,000 reach this state before the return of Christ. The rest of the church will enter this completed state after the resurrection, when we are all with the Father and the Son in the new earth.

Are we not watchmen on the wall (Isa 21:6; Ps 127:1), messengers who need to stir the waters (of the thinking of others) by sharing the truth which our heavenly Father has so graciously and abundantly given? Jesus Christ is the man, a merciful and faithful high priest, the literal and eternal Son of God, who will help the weak into the living water. We have faced the inward giants of the land (the truth of our sin problems), now is time to face the professed spiritual giants of the world, and encourage the church as did Caleb in his day, doing as he believed, *Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.* Encourage others to come to the House of Mercy, take of the living waters, and slay the giants in their land.

WE HAVE HAD OUR PENTECOST!! It is time to sound the trumpet of joyful acclamations and step out in the faith God has given us through His only begotten Son! It is time for others to come to Pentecost in the land of promised. God bless all of you - share the truth of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and why Jesus came to die. It is meat in due season! Amen.