

Title: House of Healing

Text: John 5:1-9

Target: Do not let expectations of how you think breakthrough should happen prevent you from seeing how God is making breakthrough happen.

- I. **The Magnitude of the Multitude:** *“In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.”* (Vs. 3)
 - A. **The Location:** *“by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda-House of Mercy”* (Vs. 2)
 - B. **The Legend:** **waiting for the moving of the water, for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons in the pool, and stirred the water”* (Vs. 4)
 - C. **The Longing:** *“whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.”* (Vs. 4)

- II. **The Mercy of our Messiah:** *“One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.”* (Vs.5)
 - A. **Jesus Saw Him:** *“When Jesus saw him lying there”* (Vs. 6a)
 - B. **Jesus Knew Him:** *“and knew that he already been there a long time”* (Vs. 6b)
 1. Knew his Desperation:
 2. Knew his Disappointment:
 - C. **Jesus Asked Him:** *“Do you want to be healed?”* (Vs. 6c)
 - D. **Jesus Listened to Him:** *“The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”* (Vs. 7)

- III. **The Miracle and the Mat:** *“Jesus said to him....”*
 - A. **The Promise of Healing:**
 1. **Get up:** *“Get up”* (Vs. 8)
 2. **Take Up:** *“take up your bed”* (Vs. 8b)
 3. **Walk Out:** *“and walk”* (Vs. 8c)
 - B. **The Proof of Healing:** *“And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. (Vs. 9)*

Takeaway: The miracle in the house of mercy was not when you come to the water, but when the water comes to you!

Discussion Questions:

I like to work jigsaw puzzles, especially around the holidays. But sometimes they can be frustrating and even discouraging. Especially when I've spent a good amount of time looking for a particular piece or trying to find where another specific piece fits in the puzzle. I will sit four hours and stare at the puzzle expecting the piece to magically reveal itself to me. Sometimes I find them, but sometimes I need to try a new tactic. So, I will often times walk away and come back to the puzzle and view it from a different angle to get a new perspective.

I think the same can be said for you and me when troubles or hardships come. We try to fix things or look for the solution from our vantage point, sometimes for extended periods of time. Then when the answer doesn't come, we begin to get frustrated or discouraged. Like the paralytic in this passage, have you ever found yourself waiting for a miracle? Maybe you've waited a long time, but the breakthrough never seems to come. Have you ever been frustrated when The LORD seems to delay in His help?

As we enter week 2 of our 21 days of prayer and fasting, what "miracles" are you asking God for? Has the Holy Spirit shown you any areas where you may have inappropriate ownership/control of your problems/situations? Share any breakthroughs or insights that God has already begun with your group. How can you encourage one another during this time of prayer and fasting?