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Readings: John ch 5 v 1-9  
Luke ch 18 v 35-43

In these two passages there are two questions asked by the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Do you want to be made better?” and “What do you want Me to do for you?”

The Lord doesn't ask these questions for the sake of it. He wanted to expose the desires in the hearts of these two men. He asked searching questions not silly questions.

In John we read of a great multitude of sick people but it's only recorded that one man was healed. The Lord Jesus performed many miracles when He was here but His purpose for coming was not as a miracle worker. The lesson learned from this is not that He couldn't save every single one of them but that Salvation is not universal. It is universal in it's invitation but it is universal in it's application. Not everyone will be in heaven. This is a sobering thought.

The Gospel goes out to all. Salvation is for those who put their trust in God.

The Lord Jesus Christ sees everyone - not as a mass of humanity but as individuals. God has an intimate knowledge of us all. He knows the number of hairs on our heads and He knows the innermost recess of our beings. The Lord knows all about you, your thoughts and your circumstances.

Does that make you feel uneasy?

If you are not on your way to heaven you should be troubled because “There is none that doeth good no not one” (Romans 3:12). Everything we do is tainted.

The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to help this man. He is the one that can save you. Although we are guilty sinners before God, The Lord can do something for us. God will speak to everyone at some point in our lives. If He is speaking to you tonight you should listen to Him.

Do you want to be better? Seems a strange question for a sick man. The Lord wanted the man to acknowledge his need. Some people have no awareness of their need to be saved. This sick man knew the failure of his own efforts to get better. Is that where you are tonight?

The man did not know who could meet his need. Do you know that your sin is separating you from God?

Sin is breaking Gods commandments, having a rebellious spirit and living independently of God. We cannot do this. He gives us our next breath and heartbeat. There are no good works, no price you can pay and no priest or minister that can get you into heaven.

Jesus saw, knew, said and then commanded: “Rise take up thy bed and walk”. He demanded obedience. It was a command that this man obeyed. The Gospel message is a command, God “Commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30)

The man did it immediately. Salvation is a simple act of obedience.

This man didn't even know the man who healed him. You don't need to know everything about the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved, the Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). Trust Him and take Him at His word. Trust Him and be saved.

The man had been ill for 38 years and he had never been inside the temple. He would not have been

allowed because of his disability. Later in the passage you read of him being in the temple - His life was changed. Our lives can also be changed. If we trust in Him we can be in His presence for eternity. You can have fellowship with the God of heaven.

Do you want to be saved?

There must have been people around who witnessed the miracle and needed help but why were they not rushing to the Saviour? Salvation changes a person but people who witness this change but do not seem to be affected. Listen to God if He is speaking to you.

The man in Luke knew the name of Jesus. Jesus means Saviour. "Thou shall call His name Jesus for He save His people" (Matt 1:22)

The man appreciated something of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He was here to do. He cried out for mercy. He grasped the opportunity with both hands. He has heard about Jesus and what He could do. There was a sense of urgency about him. The people around him tried to quieten him but he just cried out louder. He wanted his need to be met. It was just as well he did because this was to be the last time the Saviour would pass that way. He was on His way to be the sacrifice for sin. The man did not know it would be his last opportunity. Now is all that is given. "Now is the accepted time behold now is the day of Salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). "Boast not thyself of tomorrow" (Proverbs 27:1). "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6)

You cannot choose the time when you are going to be saved. You cannot put it off. The opportunity may not come again. The only time given to us is now. Because there is nothing on this earth that you should desire more. He is coming back to take those who trust Him home to heaven with Him. Is He coming back for you?