

Sunday May 25th Sunday worship at Christ the King 10.30 am .

John 5 Verses 1-9 .

May the words of my heart be acceptable to you lord
Amen .

We hear that Jesus was in Jerusalem, for there was a festival of the Jews.

Jesus comes along to this pool by the sheep gate called bethesda ,around this pool there were five portico's where the people used to bring their invalids , the blind , lame and paralysed.It seems in some versions of the bible that some of these came year after year in the hope of getting cured .so it would of been a real race to get into these waters when they got stirred up .

They believed that the waters were stirred up by Angels at certain times of the year and if they managed to be the first to get into the pool of siring waters, then they would be cured .

So Jesus who knew that this man had been living besides these waters in the shelter of the portico for 38 years .

Jesus knew that this man had given up hope, that it would never be his turn to get into the stirring waters .This man was smelly, had no friends and had to be carried by his family.

So Jesus asks him "Do you want to be made well?" ,the man replies that he does,but because he is not only paralysed ,but blind too , he has to rely on some one to help him get down into the waters, but some one always

gets there before him .

Jesus tells him to stand , to take up his bed roll and walk .The man does as he is told and is healed at once .

Although he was blind ,he was aware of people around him he knew this man was different just by his presence there ,but he didn't really have any idea who this man was ,who had just cured him, as Jesus had disappeared into the crowd that was there .

We all desire change ,after all dont we pray for a end to wars , and for world peace .

Then there are own prayers for our mortgages, or debts to be paid off ,a better paid job , to the win the lottery , a holiday in the sun the list goes on and on.

We pray for the sick amongst us , we want the streets clear of drug offenders , and violence ,like the knife crimes and the gangs that seem to have sprung up in every town now .

We know people struggling of Additions to porn ,or alcohol ,drugs and people in deep depression that cannot seem to get out of it no matter how much help we try to give them.

So if Jesus asked us the same question today "do you want to get well"

Would you say YES ?

I think the majority, if not all of us would say yes .

But if we say yes to Jesus then we have to change as well .

From time to time we all have areas in our lives that we struggle with, we want instant change, but of course that never happens, at least not quick enough for us.

Bethesda means the house of grace or the house of mercy.

We are all in need of God's grace, but we also fear it, we are very much aware of the fact that we have good parts and it's this part of us we show the world, but we also know we have got a bad part to, one we keep hidden from everyone else.

But this bad part is not hidden from God, He knows everything about us. So we stay ashamed of the bad in us,

We live in a society today that calls us every day to change,

We need to self improve, go shopping for clothes that make us look slimmer or more curvy or in the fashion, Get to a gym to tone up, become honed into the ideal shape, Go on this diet or that diet to lose weight, shovel handfuls of vitamins down our throats in the hope they will keep us healthy and even go to extremes at times to improve this, that, or the other about our bodies.

But we still retain our bad inward parts, we are still ashamed of the things we have done, even if they are a long time ago, we still put on our face that we show to the world.

But God knows the whole person we are, He knows that we can't make that bad place better on our own. We need him, and his help.

Jesus died for our sins .he took that guilt upon himself ,he paid for this guilt upon that cross .

When we confess our sins we are taking care of what is wrong ,but its that cross that has already paid for it.

Jesus could see that the man at the pool ,he knew that the man thought if he got into the pool he would be cured .

The man was relying on others to get him into the pool , he was complaining that he had no one to help him get in ,he had been carried by every one all his life , he had given up hope of that ever happening ,he didnt seem to make any effort of his own to get into the pool .

So to get well physically ,then we have to do what we are told , take our medicine , however horrible the taste, we might have to rest up and be away from our family and friends in a hospital bed surrounded by other sick people. Maybe even for a time we enjoy being sick after all we get lots of attention , we have people asking about us , people wait on us . In short they carry us ,but after a time it is up to us to get back on our own two feet take up our lives again .

When we are really ill, we need to rely on god , we need to ask him to help us cope with this illness and its by asking him into this very illness ,what ever the outcome, Jesus will come to us .

Here we see that Jesus was drawn to the helpless man ,he asks him the question " do you want to get well"

The man of course says yes , but that means he has to change immediatly for he has to stand up ,take up his bed roll and walk .

We all feel like that at times helpless , feel a situation is hopeless ,we dont realise its us that has to change , we have to learn to change and its when we realise this, thats when Jesus comes to us .

So say yes to Jesus always at all times and in all places for he loves you and knows you .He has forgiven you the bad parts ,so change your ways and accept his grace .

Amen.