

DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL?

John 5: 1-14

Monday, March 12, 2018, 23rd Day of Lent

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well"? (NAB)

A man waiting, beside a pool. Been ill for 38 years. Disabled to the extent he cannot get himself into the pool's promised healing waters. And Jesus asks "Do you want to be well?"

The answer seems obvious, but is it? Do we want to be well? Do we REALLY want to be well? For physical pain, we readily run to a doctor, fill the prescriptions, take the pills but do we heed the advice? Will we do the exercises, or lose the weight? What if the pain is internal? What if it's dealing with a grand injustice that we feel has been done to us? What if it's losing a job; parent, spouse, child? What if it's addiction; depression? Do we seek counseling or get into a recovery program? Or do we make excuses because "it's too much effort" or "we know it wouldn't help".

Do we know what's best for us? Or are we shutting out the possibilities that God has waiting for us if we would be willing to "get well". Our excuses for maintaining the status quo become comforting; the effort to risk different outcomes is unknown and scary.

Do you want to be well? Are we willing to give up our self-will to become a true disciple of Christ? Are we willing to exert the obedience required to have a relationship with Jesus?

The man at the pool was ready to be well. Am I?

Prayer: Dear Jesus. You know me and know I'm brimming with self-will. But I do want to be well. I'm scared of the changes it may require, but I want to be your servant. I want my inner voice to silence and hear yours in its place. Help me let go of "me" so that I can be well with you. Amen.

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