

Grounded in Grace

LIVING IN-BETWEEN HURT, HOPE, AND HEALING PT 5

A Promised Finding

“Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” John 5:14

The story of the paralytic man doesn't end with his healing. There is more transformation to come. It is interesting to read the passage all the way through because the man doesn't even know it is Jesus who healed him. The Jews questioned him, but he had no answers for them. However, notice what Jesus does next. Jesus finds him again at the temple. We don't know if the man went to the temple to give an offering of thankfulness, but we do know that Jesus finds him there. Jesus is not done with him yet. He had healed the man physically, but now Jesus was seeking his soul. He wanted the renewed man to not only enjoy his new life physically but also to have a transformed life in his heart. The physical healing was only pointing out the need for a spiritual healing.

William Hendriksen, in his commentary on John, teaches that the present tense of the verb “Stop sinning” in Greek translates that the man should “no longer continue in sin.” Hendriksen concludes, “Right now he was in the state of being unreconciled with God. Jesus knew this. Hence he warns him not to continue in this condition. Otherwise there is in store for him something worse than the physical illness from so recently he had been delivered. Is it not probable that by ‘something worse’ Jesus meant to indicate eternal punishment?” (Hendriksen, 1954, p. 195)

I love the NIV translation of this phrase, “Later Jesus found him. . .” There you see the persistent Savior seeking and finding the heart. Jesus sought him once to heal him physically. Now, Jesus seeks him again in order to heal him spiritually. That phrase gives so much hope because Jesus is seeking to find you and me. He is not done with us yet. Jesus is saying the same thing to us. “I want a relationship with you. I want you to be reconciled with me. I know where you are and I am seeking to find you.”

Right where you are- I will find you.
Right in your discouragements- I will find you.
Right in your loneliness- I will find you.
Right in your emptiness- I will find you.
Right in the places you tend to hide- I will find you.

And guess what? You will find him there too. Jesus constantly seeks, constantly pursues, constantly finds and constantly wants to heal us from the wounds of life. Later Jesus found him. Later Jesus will find you- and that later is now.

By Steve Benson

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