**MIRACLE SERIES #16--(John 5:1-9)--"WAITING ON THE PORCH"------(Business as usual)**

**The porch is a very important part of the home. There's nothing like sitting in the cool of the evenings under my porch watching the cows grazing, every once and a while you might see a deer or turkey....or nothing but a rumbling afternoon thundershower as the sun sets over the mountains....MEETING, GREETING & EATING...it all goes on around the PORCH!**

***Mark 14:68   But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.(CURSERS ON THE PORCH)***

***Acts 3:11   And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.(CONVERSIONS ON THE PORCH)***

***John 10:23   And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. (CHRIST ON THE PORCH)***
**Here we are told of a place where there were five porches loaded with CRIPPLES! According to the Bible, at a certain season, an angel descended into the pool of Bethesda and stirred up the waters; after which the first person that could get from the porch to the pool was healed. While this was a blessing to the one person who could get in, it only held disappointment for everyone else who was desperate for healing...(Maybe you've been trying to GET IN THE WATERS for a long time...but you just can't get there for some reason!) Keep in mind that according to other scriptures, Jesus visited Jerusalem every year of his life! This pool (even today) is just a 100 yards from the Temple mount. Jesus may have seen this man on each trip of his 30 years of life; and there he was every year, just LAYING ON THAT PORCH!-(Apparently, He never lost HOPE or else he wouldn't have been still there!)-(LIKE YOU, HERE TODAY, AT THIS CHURCH!)**

**I. v. 1-4 THE CRIPPLED CROWDS who CONGREGATED**

**A. They were MISERABLE –There was no such thing as HEALTHCARE REFORM because nobody was insured! No EMERGENCY ROOMS or REHAB CENTERS, NO ORTHOPEDIC SURGERIES! *In their sickness, they picture the sinner in all of his helplessness, blindness, uselessness and dependence. Even though a lost person may be healthy in body, they are still sick in the soul and are separated from God, and on HELL's ROAD!-(Eph. 2:12).***

**B. They were MONOTANOUS –These people are waiting on the SAME THING EVERY DAY OF THEIR LIVES...some angel to come and save them! The few springs located in and around Jerusalem were sporadic in nature. The "Gihon" spurts water out about every two hours. Some scholars think it was a local superstition....but the bible calls it "an Angel"!**  ***2Corin.11:14   And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
Galatians 1:8   But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed***. **While they waited year after year, the Great Physician was passing among them unheeded!**

**II. v. 5-7 THE UNMOVED MAN WHO WAS UNABLE**

**A. v. 5 He Was Dis-abled –This man is a man who is unable to do for himself, v. 7. He has to be carried everywhere he goes, he is forced to beg his way through life, he is totally helpless and useless to those around him...What a picture of the sinner before God!**

**B. v. 5 He Was Desperate – Just the fact that he was there at the pool is an indication that he was desperate for healing. Here is a man who, if an angel did come, would have to try and drag his body across the porch to get into the pool. The problem with this man is that he is looking for a way OTHER than God’s way. People seem willing to try any plan but God’s plan. *Mark 8:36-37-"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?***

**C. v. 7 He Was Often Disappointed –Time and again, this man had seen others get into the pool ahead of himself. Time and again, his dreams of a life "coming together" were shattered. Then, he has to drag his old body back up on the porch only to wait on MORE DISAPPOINTMENT! Again, in this we can see the sinner! Man’s search for peace in his soul leads him into many disappointing endeavors. Because, no matter what a man tries to bring happiness into his life, nothing else will work other than the blood of Christ!**

**III. v. 8-9 THE LOOKING LORD WHO LIBERATED!**

**A. v. 6 His Compassion – The compassion of Jesus for this man is seen in three wonderful ways*. 1. Jesus chose him out of all the others* – The Bible says that a "great multitude" was there that day, v. 3. Jesus could have stopped at any person’s bed in that place, but He chose to stop here! This was pure grace! This is what happens to the sinner who becomes a Christian! Jesus passes by and stops at your hearts door. He knocks, John 6:44, and desires entrance. When that door is opened and Jesus is invited in, salvation occurs, Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-10! It is every ounce pure grace and grace alone! The word "Bethesda" = "House of grace", and that is just what this man found there!**

***2. Jesus knew his horrible condition and He still cared for him* –Jesus knew all there was to know about this man; and he knows ALL ABOUT YOU!!! Jesus looked beyond his problems and saw his great need. Jesus did not see what he was, but what he could be through His powerful touch! Notice that Jesus required no change in the man's condition before Jesus accepted him!....We sing the song "JUST AS I AM"; and that's how he wants you...the changes all come later!**

***3. Jesus offered him a chance to begin again* - Here is man who for 38 years has lived in a broken body. One day he meets Jesus and is offered a chance to start life over in a sense! As you read this story, one wonders why Jesus would ask this man if he wanted to be healed? One possible explanation is that He did this to prompt a confession of helplessness and dependence. \*The same is true for salvation. Jesus comes by and offers men salvation, but it hinges on their willingness to admit their need. Before salvation can come into any life, the sinner must: 1. Confess Himself a sinner – Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:9. 2. Be convinced of his need for Jesus Christ –John 6:44. 3. Claim Christ as personal Savior – Acts 16:31.**

**B. v. 8 His Command – Jesus responds by commanding this man, who has not walked in 38 years, to get up, pick up his bed and walk. All that was required on the part of this crippled man was simple, childlike faith and obedience to the command of Jesus Christ.-(Me-1976!) I suppose that is why it is so easy for little children to be saved. They are used to depending on others for what they need. Mama and daddy take care of everything, so it is easy for them to trust Jesus and be saved! However, adults are different. We are conditioned to make our own way in the world. We are taught to stand on our own two feet. C. v. 9 His Control –The Bible makes it plain that this man was miraculously, instantly healed by the power if the Lord Jesus Christ. This healing required exactly no input from the patient! Jesus spoke, the man was healed and all he had to do was get up and walk away! crippled by sin is now free to walk in newness of life. By the way, Jesus expects us to walk for Him after we are saved!)-\*It seemed nobody else that day was impacted; but they should've!**