



# The Crucial Question: Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?

**“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?” (John 5:6).**

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Sincerely correct answers to the questions of life makes a difference for good. In this story, Jesus asked a man a rather peculiar question, that some may think was rather obvious.

“After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. **5** And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? **7** The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. **8** Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. **9** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. **11** He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. **12** Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? **13** And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. **14** Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. **15** The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. **16**

**“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk?” (John 5:8).**

And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. **17** But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. **18** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” (John 5:1-18).

“Wilt thou be made whole?” - the events around this question teaches us that:

- 1) Despite apparently outward appearances (e.g. seeking hospital or spiritual help), not every sick person genuinely wants to be healed either because of physical, psychological or other benefits they are getting from the sickness or giving up on life.
- 2) God does not force His will on people, but **“whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Romans 10:13).
- 3) The man’s answer, although long-winded, indicates a genuine desire for healing. He got his heart’s desire (healing) from Jesus. Note that Jesus did not blame nor criticise this man as many preachers of today do.
- 4) His answer was limited to the only solution he knew, but Jesus had a different solution. We must not limit God by our understanding. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).
- 5) The Jews were mad that Jesus healed on a Sabbath day. Religion binds, but Jesus sets the captives free.
- 6) Obedience of the man to Jesus rather than Jewish laws, brought him healing.