

## The Sunday of the Paralytic

John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 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. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 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? 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. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. 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. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

During this time following Pascha and until the Feast of Ascension, God's Holy Church celebrates Jesus Christ's Resurrection with great joy. The present Gospel continues with a theme of joy and resurrection.

The paralytic in the present Gospel suffered for thirty-eight years. Jesus Christ's healing of the paralytic after such a long period of suffering is a firm basis for always centering hope in Christ.

Jesus Christ will make a difference in the lives of individuals turning to Him in faith who have suffered for a long time. Jesus Christ provides hope for every person suffering regardless of the duration or severity.

People passing by the man laying afflicted for thirty-eight years probably concluded he would never walk. Jesus Christ entered the man's life and gave him new life. Jesus told the man to take up his bed and walk.

News stories periodically appear about individuals who have been in a coma for many years. The news stories tell of long periods of no hope for the person awakening. Then one day suddenly the person awakens!

Hope in Jesus Christ is always well placed. More than thirty years ago I interviewed a man in his late twenties when I worked for the Parole Board. The man had attempted suicide as a teenager following his arrest for a crime.

The person I interviewed was in a coma from the time of his suicide attempt when he was sixteen years old until his late twenties. He suddenly awakened. There is always reason to hope in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection verifies His power over death. Jesus' Resurrection establishes hope in the most difficult of situations. Jesus Christ offers life in the most desperate circumstances. Jesus Christ offers eternal life for believers.

Jesus told the paralytic to sin no more after he was healed. Committing sins can have a paralyzing effect on a person. Jesus Christ's forgiveness of sins frees the person from the ravages of paralysis.

Paralysis can take different forms. Sins will inhibit spiritual growth. A person who sins will have his or her abilities to function greatly curtailed. Personal relationships are inhibited by sins.

Jesus Christ offers the path to healing. Jesus Christ provides the hope for healing. Jesus' Resurrection is the certainty that healing is possible. The Church proclaims the present Gospel for believers to remain firm in hope.

Take time during this period of Resurrection joy in the Church to be thankful for the Risen Christ. Be thankful for the hope that the Resurrected Christ provides. Be grateful there is a way to find joy in the Risen Christ.

Even in situations of terminal illness, Jesus is the certainty for eternal life for believers. Jesus destroyed the limits of death by rising from the tomb. Jesus' Resurrection is cause for constant gratitude.

Jesus' love shown by His willingness to go to the Cross merits believers always giving thanks. Any person suffering can always look to the Resurrected Christ with confidence and hope.

The Church proclaims the Gospel of the healing of the paralytic to dispel the darkness that comes from suffering and hopelessness. Jesus Christ's healing power offers light to overcome darkness in human suffering.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Jesus Christ is the Joy of the world. Jesus Christ is the Love for all in the world. God's Holy Church stands against the currents of hopelessness and despair.

Think deeply about today's Gospel and the healing power of the Resurrected Christ. Examine the heart, mind and soul. Make sure Jesus' Resurrection is firmly centered in the heart, mind and soul. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

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The Sunday of the Paralytic. Holy Martyr Glyceria, May 13/26, 2024.

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