

John 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

Jesus' question seems strange: 'Wilt thou be made whole?' After 38 years, wouldn't the answer be obvious? Yet Jesus probes the man's desire and will. Long illness can produce resignation; some become identified with their condition. True healing requires willingness to change. The question also invites faith—recognizing Jesus as one who can heal. Before acting, Jesus engages the man's will.

Historical Context

The question parallels Jesus' frequent inquiry about faith before healing. It distinguishes passive waiting from active desire for change. The man's response (verse 7) reveals complaint rather than faith—yet Jesus heals anyway, demonstrating grace that precedes faith.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus ask about willingness when the need seems obvious?
2. How can long-term suffering produce resignation that resists healing?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτον	ἰδὼν	ό	Ἰησοῦς	κατακείμενον	καὶ	γνοὺς	ὅτι
him	saw	G3588	When Jesus	lie	and	knew	that
G5126	G1492		G2424	G2621	G2532	G1097	G3754
πολὺν	ἥδη	χρόνον	ἔχει	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Θέλεις	
a long	now	time	he had been	in that case he saith	unto him	Wilt thou	
G4183	G2235	G5550	G2192	G3004	G846	G2309	
ὅγιὴς	γενέσθαι						
whole	be made						
G5199	G1096						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Luke 18:41 (Parallel theme): Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

John 21:17 (References Jesus): He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Isaiah 65:1 (Parallel theme): I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

Psalms 142:3 (Parallel theme): When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

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