

John 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The man responds with excuses: '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.' He explains why the pool hasn't healed him—no helper, too slow. His answer reveals he's still looking to the pool, not to Jesus. His hope is in the water; his problem is competition. Jesus will bypass the pool entirely, showing He needs no such mechanism.

Historical Context

The answer reveals the man's worldview: healing depends on the pool, timing, and human assistance. He lacks all three. Jesus' healing won't require any of them—not the pool's water, not the water's movement, not human help. Grace transcends religious mechanisms.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we sometimes focus on religious mechanisms while missing Christ's direct power?
2. What excuses keep people from experiencing Christ's healing?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	αὐτῷ	ὁ	ἀσθενῶν	Κύριε	ἄνθρωπον	οὐκ			
answered	him	G3588	The impotent man	Sir	man	no			
G611	G846		G770	G2962	G444	G3756			
ἔχω	ἵνα	ὅταν	ταραχθῇ	τὸ	ὔδωρ	βάλλη	με	εἰς	τὴν
I have	to	when	is troubled	G3588	the water	put	me	into	G3588
G2192	G2443	G3752	G5015		G5204	G906	G3165	G1519	
κολυμβήθραν·	ἐν	ᾧ	δὲ	ἔρχομαι	ἐγὼ	ἄλλος	πρὸ		
the pool	while	G3739	but	am coming	I	another	before		
G2861	G1722		G1161	G2064	G1473	G243	G4253		
ἐμοῦ	καταβαίνει								
me	steppeth down								
G1700	G2597								

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 72:12 (Parallel theme): For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

Deuteronomy 32:36 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

1 Corinthians 9:24 (Parallel theme): Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Psalms 142:4 (Parallel theme): I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

Romans 5:6 (Parallel theme): For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

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