***John 5:6-8 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” 8Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”***

We’re with Jesus this morning overlooking the Pool of Bethesda. We are by the Sheep Gate, in the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem. Sheep for sacrifice are brought in by this gate. Bethesda is from two Hebrew words – Beth, meaning House, and Hesda meaning Grace, so Bethesda means House of Grace. This pool was believed to have healing power. Jesus sees a multitude of sick laying in the five porches. Out of all these people, Jesus settles His gaze on one man – sick with an infirmity for 38 years. Let me tell you this morning my friends. There is nothing more exciting than knowing that Jesus picks us out of a crowd. There may be a great multitude, with all kinds of sicknesses, lying this way and that, but when the Savior of the world casts His eye – He casts it upon the individual. He has come to this house this morning. May we be a Bethesda, a House of Grace, a House of Mercy, and a place of healing for any that are suffering.

Verse 6 starts - *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time.* Out of the great multitude, Jesus sees one. Notice Jesus didn’t have to be told that this man had been sick. Notice that He didn’t have to be told how long he’d been sick. Jesus knew… and He knows us. Make no mistake – this man was not just a face in the crowd. Likewise, we are not faces in the crowd to Jesus. He knows us. He knows our infirmities, he knows how long we’ve been waiting, and he knows our needs. Have we taken them to Jesus?

Verse 6 ends - *He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”* The KJV says, “Wilt thou be made whole?” Jesus asked, “Do you want to be healed?” Why would He ask such a question of someone sick for 38 years? Because sometimes the answer is no. And Jesus knows that sometimes the answer is no. Jesus asks us – do you want to be made whole? We are offered healing, offered the free gift of God’s Grace and Salvation. Do we want to be made whole? For some, the answer is no. The cost is too high, the cross is too heavy, the change is too great. The sin too well loved. The self too spoiled. Wilt thou be made whole? Some say no. I’ll simply remain in my infirmity.

Verse 7, notice the man’s answer to a yes or no question… *The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”* Lord, none of my friends will put me in the pool. No one will lift me and help me. Not only that, people are stepping over me to get to the pool first! My friends, as I studied this passage, I wondered – how many people does Jesus see that we overlook? How many times do we step over to get there first? How often do we leave someone lying in need while we unseeingly miss the opportunity to help? Oh, this was a convicting verse for me! I have no one to help! They don’t see me! They step over me to obtain for themselves. Here this man lies in the pool of the House of Grace, being dismissed and unseen. How many times do people go unseen and dismissed by the very people that the Grace of God saved? Let’s not step over. Let’s see and help. I don’t see this man as complaining as many theologians do. I see him as having lost hope. He’s asked for help, and no one helps. And he’s unable to help himself. I’ve come to the House of Grace, yet I receive no grace. He thinks he needs healing, but Jesus sees he needs Hope, the Hope of Jesus.

Listen to Jesus’ response in verse 8 - *Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”* Jesus makes no comment on his answer, nor does He make any comment on the unseeing, unmerciful people stepping over and walking by. At this moment, there are only two people in that place – this man and Jesus. This man, lying beside the Pool of the House of Grace, has just come eye to eye with the very Fountain of God’s Grace become flesh. Jesus says – Rise, take up your bed and walk. And we know the result – the man, after 38 years of infirmity, suffering unseen and unhelped, stepped over and ignored as the world hustles by, immediately is made whole. He took up his bed and walked.

Two questions to close. First, who might we be walking past, stepping over, and failing to see? This week, let’s make an extra effort to see. Let us be Bethesda, the House of Grace, that the blessings of Jesus flows through. Let’s not step over, or step by, but step in and step up, as our Savior teaches.

Second, Salvation has cost, not a price, but a cost – there is a cross to take up, self to lay down, and commands to live out. Make no mistake – Jesus fixes His gaze on each of us. He offers Grace that we might become little Houses of Grace, seeing the unseen, loving the unloved, helping the unhelped… wilt thou be made whole? We answer - Yes Lord, regardless of the cost, let Your Grace make me whole.