



## **FINDING HEALING** **“Miraculous Healing” John 5:1-15**

No. 2296

Stuart Briscoe

Hillary Clinton gave a speech about our culture in which she talked about, among other things, “sleeping sickness of the soul...a sense...that we lack at some core level, meaning in our individual lives and meaning collectively...cities that are filled with hopeless girls with babies and angry boys with guns...alienation, despair and loneliness...a crisis of meaning.” This sounds like a situation Jesus met one day, at a place called Bethesda.

### **I. A Sad Situation.**

- A. Festival time in Jerusalem. v. 1
  - 1. A time for rejoicing, singing, dancing, processions. (\*ISBE)
  - 2. A sense of isolation for the inhabitants of Bethesda.
- B. Heartache time at Bethesda. vv. 2-5

### **II. A Significant Action.**

- A. The incidence of “signs.” 2:11; 4:54
  - 1. Miracles.
  - 2. Wonders.
  - 3. Signs.
- B. The significance of “signs.”
  - 1. They point to something other than themselves.
  - 2. They are parables through which God’s glory is revealed.
- C. The problem with “signs.”
  - 1. Some ignore the significance, wanting only the benefit.
  - 2. Some depreciate faith, insisting on the spectacular.
  - 3. Some rationalize the event, dismissing the supernatural.
  - 4. Some accept everything, forgetting the counterfeit. 2 Thessalonians 2:9

### **III. A Shriveled Person.**

- A. Condition. vv. 5-7
  - 1. Shriveled abilities...“lying there.”
  - 2. Shriveled hopes...“for a long time.”
  - 3. Shriveled emotions...“I have no one.”
- B. Challenge: v. 6b...“Do you want to get well?”
  - 1. Have you settled for being shriveled?
  - 2. Are you open to the challenge of change?
- C. Command: vv. 8, 14...“Get up, pick up...and walk...stop sinning.”
  - 1. The faith to obey.
  - 2. The will to obey.
  - 3. The power to obey.

**Points to Ponder:** The work of God is seen in unshriveled lives. Some people miss the point and bog down in lesser concerns.

\*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, ref. “Feasts and Fasts.”