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## *Devotion for February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

*"Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids - blind, lame, and paralyzed. (Waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: Whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had). One man was there who had been an invalid for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be healed?' The sick man answered Him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.' Jesus said to him, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk.' And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath."*

*- John 5:2-9*

**Let's say there aren't any hospitals, no doctors, no nurses, no wheelchairs or walkers, no prosthetics, or no motorized carts for those who have trouble walking from which to get help.** Now imagine having a disease that causes you to be an invalid. What hope would you have to ever be made healthy?

In our Bible passage for today there was a man who was an invalid. His only hope was to be the first person into the pool of water at Bethesda. There was an angel of the Lord that would stir the water of the pool and the first person to get in the water would be healed of whatever disease they had. This guy had a big problem: everyone around the pool, and there was a multitude, could get to the water before he could. He was stuck there trying to be first into the water

for 38 years. He was lying there with little to no hope. Then, out of the blue, who came by? Jesus, the hope of the whole world. The man didn't know who Jesus was. Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. I think that question might have been a very big understatement for this man.

The man just said that he couldn't get into the water first, no one was around that could help him with his problem. Then Jesus showed him who He was and is, the Son of God. Jesus is love, because God is love. He told the man this:

*"Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ([John 5:8](#))*

The man was immediately healed. Can you imagine the joy this man must have felt? He could hardly move for 38 years and now he could move about totally healed. Jesus was this man's hope, who had little to no hope left in his life. Jesus' heart went out to this man.

His heart also goes out to you and to me today. He is with you and me always to the end of the age. He is there as we go through the trials that life presents. We can go to Him in prayer anytime, day or night. We can have faith that Jesus will always answer our prayers according to what He knows is best for us. Jesus is our hope of the forgiveness of sins and our hope of eternal life.

St. Paul said it this way in his letter to the Corinthians:

*"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." ([1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:13](#))*

*In Christ,  
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