LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 62

The Fifth Most Important Question Jesus Asked

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus walks into a crowded courtyard in Jerusalem,
near the Pool of Bethesda-
a place where the sick, blind, and paralyzed gather,
hoping for healing.

One man has been there 38 years,
lying on a mat,
waiting for a miracle.

Like a tree rooted in stone,
he had grown into his mat.

And Jesus asks a question that seems out of place:
"Do you want to get well?"

He isn't asking for information.
He's awakening a long-buried desire-
a hope crushed by decades of disappointment.

The man doesn't say yes.
He explains why he can't be healed.
No one helps him.
Others get there first.
His identity has fused with his condition.
He's not just sick-
he's stuck.

Jesus doesn't ask about technique or theology.
He asks about desire.
Because healing isn't just physical-
it's personal.
And sometimes,
we don't want it as much as we think we do.

This question exposes the quiet comfort of dysfunction-
the way brokenness becomes familiar,
the way excuses feel safer than change.
Like a worn blanket,
brokenness becomes shelter.

Jesus doesn't shame the man.
He doesn't argue.
He simply asks-
and then commands:
"Get up. Pick up your mat and walk."

No stirring of the water.
No angelic intervention.
Just a question that cuts through resignation
like a blade through rope.

And here's what you might not know about Jesus:
He still asks this question.
To the spiritually numb.
To the emotionally exhausted.
To the believer stuck in disappointment.

It's not a test.
It's an invitation.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He still asks the stuck, “Do you want to get well?”

Where have I made peace with being stuck?

Jesus isn't asking for a plan.
He's asking for a yes.

Father, You see where I've grown numb.
But Jesus still asks: Do you want to get well?
So I say yes.
In Jesus' name, Amen.