

*A Joyful Path...Journeying Beyond
Jerusalem:*

*“Do You Want To Be Made
Well...Really?”*

Psalm 16:11a; John 15:11; John 5:1-9
May 26, 2019 Eastertide

We are in Eastertide. Easter is 40 days...time to reflect and ask the tough question and voice our doubts...that is, if we have indeed come down off that cross with Jesus and now find ourselves positioned to live the new awareness brought to us as Christmas...the ones that walked us to our Jerusalems...and now are to be integrated into our ordinary days! A truly *Joyful Path*.

Today's story asks: Do you want to be made well?

Does anyone know that you do? Are you still sitting there...or, up on that cross or stuck in your doubts letting life go by?

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Jesus said to the paralyzed man, stand up and walk.

He sat there 38 years with really great excuses not to be able to make it to the healing waters.

Isolating himself and blaming others. Full of sadness. Probably resentment. Fearful.

How many years of excuses each of us has... not to make it to our healings!

I want to diet but there's a refrigerator in my house.

I want to have a relationship with my daughter, but I'm not talking to her.

I want to feel better about myself but my mother told me...

I want to have a prayer life, but Sunday nights are inconvenient.

I want to be less prejudice, but I don't know what to say to my Hispanic/White/Black neighbor so I don't say anything at all.

I want to honor other people's religious freedom, if they'd honor mine first!

I want to feel more comfortable with others, but I don't want to be with them.

I want my kids to do their homework/share a book together/stop arguing, but there's so much to do in the evening when I get home from work I just don't have time or patience.

I want...

Your excuse?

Which begs the question: What do you *really* want?

Do you want to be made well? Really?
Does anyone know?

How can they be supportive if they don't even know?

I wonder if all of our excuses are about our fear that if made well, that would mean we would live differently...

have to move to *a new way of being*
with ourselves and others.

Really now...that's scary! We ARE afraid.

It was true then and it is still true today that healing has consequences.

The story goes on to share the healed man's parents were hesitant to recognize him...his new capacity.

How hard for him!

Others were quick to accuse and condemn the healing because his changed status was threatening to them

for they were entrenched in the ways it had always been and the old rules of engagement.

How disappointing for him!

Change yourself and it changes everything...
all your relationships.

You know this is true. It is scary.

But...scarier than sitting alone another 38 years
in the same place and mindset?

Really?

And we also know that here at Tippe,

as we include those who are healed, healing...it may lead to alienation and division right here

because sometimes we cannot let go of the old rules of engagement here, at church, either.

(Actually, I think we all do much, amazingly so, to accept each other...often ahead of the curve of other faith communities...*maybe that's because we're becoming a faithing community!*)

It can be scary to be healed...because we won't know who we are to be...till we are...healed...but then we will know!

We'll know. I believe this/I believe this!!!

...we will be at peace when we let...let ourselves be healed, ...no matter how hard it is!
Because it's authentic, of oneness, you deeply belong...to YOURSELF!

Healing, wholeness, oneness are the ways of Jesus
and they are also the challenge because they change us!

Resisting change...resisting your own healing, digging in,
acting out a paralyzing fear of a future
you cannot predict or control,
not being at home with yourself or anyone else:
No Joy...no journey...you stay right where you are: are stuck.

Here's the thing.

Just stand up. (No test, no expectation you can't achieve.)

**Stand up and take your mat...your usual ways of being with all your
excuses...and you WILL walk!**

Just stand up.

You will know what to do next (which step to take next)
when you stand up for your life...
leave your mindset of helplessness and hopelessness
(all those excuses)
and stand up against all odds to receive your own healing...

I believe you will know which step to take next!

And you're not the only one standing up! We all are "sick" ...church a place for those in
need of healing.

And we are standing up *together!*

**Find some beginning courage in this!
We walk together...a joyful path!**

Within a group of those also healing...take up your mat and take a step...a baby step
perhaps...

as you begin to make journey with the living
and not the whining!

Simply invite any one of us into your life...your heart...
and we will stand together and take that first step...together.

The porticos are full of folk with great excuses...

while Christ's energy is encouraging us ...longing to walk beside us as we take our first
next steps
if we'll just stand up...
individuals together!

So...*what* do you want? Do you want to be made well?
Not only come down off the cross...but live!?

Do this:

Simply (without over-thinking) remember the whole of your story and let it propel you
toward that which
you truly want for yourself-

STAND UP...
for what you truly believe, truly want...
we can't read your mind! But once we see you, we'll know!

Be one integrous self within,
be one with each other, and one with God.
Stay the path.

Say that first yes...you have to...stand up!

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The Bible's Resurrection story is a **truth** story...more than an individual's  
resurrection,  
the resurrection of the many who choose  
the ways of wholeness, peace, justice.

Resurrection witnesses to what is truly powerful in life.

Remain in awe of the life around you.  
Deeply know you are made able to resist the ways of the world.

Stay the path and show "all you are"  
to those who are counting on you to show up. YOU...US! Counting on our  
awareness and presence...counting on us

to walk with Jesus in integrity and peace  
up against those who are counting on our being worn down and out

...counting on our human tendency to go to sleep...  
to numb, to shut down and tune out, to go away,  
to give in and give up,  
to say “not mine”.

“Christianity is not about saving people from their sins.

It’s about expanding the sense of what it means  
to be fully human.

What Christianity does is lift us beyond the survival mentality into a kind of  
humanity  
that can give itself away in love.

Start by loving yourself!  
That’s what the Jesus story is all about.”  
(Bishop John Shelby Spong)

Start by knowing what you really want, stand up, walk.

Divine Presence came amongst us as Jesus.  
Christ Power...the Universal Christ still with us...  
Staying with us as we journey.

The path never ends. A never ending story.  
There is always more possibility.  
More freedom and joy.

We each go on our own, together.  
It is indeed a Joyful Path.

Our call as Christians is not to come to church,  
but to go out into the world.

Stay the path.  
Trust your journey...learn, grow, evolve, become.

Have some fun! A Joyful Path!!!