

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up.'

John 5:7

The Pool of Bethesda was an interesting place. Most likely a Roman healing pool, it was believed an angel occasionally stirred up the waters, temporarily transmitting healing powers. In actuality, the water coming in periodically from the spring or the pipe probably caused the occasional churning of the water in the pool. But in order to be healed, one has to believe it is possible.

This man was sick for 38 years. He was willing to try anything to be healed. He had suffered so much, he would believe just about anything. He probably heard reports or stories about the Pool of Bethesda, and had someone bring him there. What could it hurt? But, once the waters were stirred up, how would he get himself into the pool? That was the problem.

This sick man does not recognize Jesus, or demonstrate faith in him. He could care less who would put him in the water, as long as **someone** did.

But he **did** have a longing deep enough that he would attach his hopes to something. And that's enough for Jesus, who commands that he be healed. You see, it is often the one who **seeks**, as opposed to the long-time believer that discovers the most, because the long-time believer often figures he has what he needs already and so is not looking for anything at all.

Which are we? Are we satisfied with what we have, or are we seeking more, something that only Jesus can bring?

May our continued celebration of Lent strengthen us to persevere in our seeking what Jesus offers – eternal life in the Father's Kingdom of true and lasting peace.