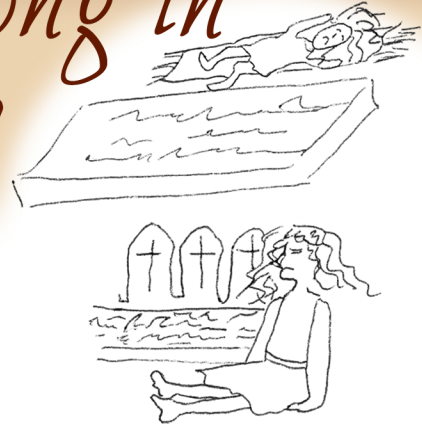




Finding Your Song in Your Sorrow



Paralyzed by the Pool

When Jesus saw him lying there he learned he had been in this condition for a long time. He asked 'Do you wish to get well?' John 5:6.

The Pool of Bethesda still stands today with its five porches, outside the Lion Gate. Bethesda means House of Mercy and Grace. The lame man surely needed both mercy and grace. He had been lying there for 38 years. Mercy, grace, and a Lion/Lamb gate!

Surrounded by these symbols of Himself, Jesus approaches the paralytic and asks what seems to be the obvious, "Do you wish to get well?" Such a simple question. I can hear those around chuckling. Yet, so profound. I don't mean to be insensitive, but I'm guessing that this man, after 38 years, had found some pool pay-off for not getting well. He certainly had a reason not to join the labor force, received daily sympathy, had an entourage of people who ministered to him, taking to the pool each day, feeding him. And, he probably received alms from the more fortunate. He had a daily support group of people with whom he could commiserate, share and compare wounds. Surely after 38 years his illness trumped most the other's. He was in an uncomfortable place that had become comfortable in its familiarity.

Those in their first few years of grief need to lie by Bethesda, the pool of mercy and grace. They need to cry, wail, mourn, be ministered to, take time off of work, if one has that luxury. There is a time to rest and to share your pain and your wounds.

However, I've met moms who are years down the road from grief. Their "muscles" have atrophied. They are paralyzed by the pool and can't move, much less have the strength to write a song in their sorrow.



If you're there, allow Jesus to whisper this question to you: "Do you wish to get well?" What are the pay-offs for not moving forward? Jesus commanded the man "get up, pick up your pallet and walk!" We may be afraid that if we walk away we may lose our last link to our child - our grief. But Jesus let him keep his pallet with him as a memorial to his healing. I can picture it now: "See my pallet? I was paralyzed. Now I can move!"

Discovery Dialog with your Composer:

Jot down any "pool-payoffs" that you may have been entertaining? Can you begin to release them today?
Prayer:

Lord I do wish to get well, heal me but let me keep my pallet as my testimony.

Selah:

Today I release any "payoffs" that are thwarting my healing

