



Focus on n Hear from your Solution—He still Cares!

I assure you, those who listen to My Message and believe in God who sent Me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. —Jesus (See John 5: 24, nlt)

When I go over that verse it makes me wanna ask: Whatcha focused on? Have you heard Christ's voice calling you? Have ya responded to His Word? You can!

Perhaps you feel like yelling: Man Kurt, that kinda talk sounds so liturgical dude, so religiously non-practical and mysterious. Yeah man, I like.. live in the real dog-eat-dog world here not on some pie-in-the-sky clouds!

Whaaaaat? I don't mean to be pushy or spooky at all. Those are some important questions. And believe it or not, I try to give some thought to wording these so called "ecclesiastical questions" in a more down-to-earth kinda way.. you know, away from all that comes off as churchy-foreign to normal folk. I figure, why turn people off as they think about eternity? To me it's critical. That's such a long time to be wrong if people miss decide on the most important Issue.

Hey, talk to me here, cuz I think I might be able to relate some. I spent 18 years of my life as a non-Christian during the '60s and '70s, and during that time I was into everything I could down ..except Bible reading and prayer.

"They stumble because they do not listen to God's Word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them." —1 Pet. 2:8b

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." —Jam. 1:22

"The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the Word of the Lord." —Acts 13:44

"..blessed are all who hear the Word of God and put it into practice." —Lk. 11:28

But Christian, what about you.. do you regularly hear God's Word and believe? How does that verse impact you?

You know that's an interesting passage!

Sure, gobs of people used to hang out in Jerusalem back in the day.. close in proximity to this certain entrance called the Sheep Gate, at a semi-nice pool where God would visit to allegedly bless. I don't know if some were superstitious or not. There seems to be some details left out, but there were five porches there at this beautiful dipping spot, that of course had a Hebrew name. Yup, people called it, Bethesda, and this was during the time when Jesus was here walkin' dusty paths and working great wonders but most didn't feel like they could spare the time to turn aside and hear Him—their ultimate Solution.

Like me, does the meaning of that place's name not ring a bell for you? In the text, God tells us that the name of that place literally means, "House of Mercy."

Pretty cool huh, because that is exactly what the masses wanted and were constantly looking for back then. Guilty people are still looking for mercy today.

You know, God wants your home and your church and your work place and your school.. all to be houses of mercy if you will. That's just the kind of magnanimous Person He is.

But what type of folk gathered at this place and what for ..you ask? Good question. Really ill people were hangin' out along with the infirmed. I suspect the hungry where there too.. as well as the rejected, the aimless-peeps with gaunt emaciated twenty-first-century-super-model-like bodies but with pale unhappy faces—a **"great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water."**

I remember how during my high school days in Dana Point, that all my spiritually-sick surfer friends and I, were doing pretty much the same thing.. but at the beach. We were **waiting for the moving of the water..** in order to get blessed. Ok, weak humor. Sorry.

Anyways, I'm sure if you were there, you would be able to "see it" in their eyes as they, day after day would watch that pool and wait for some change—those ache-deadened windows of their souls and minds—I mean the hallow gloomy eyes and cheeks.

Man, I'm positive that you could "see it" with em kind of like with some people in our day.. out there panhandling with a cardboard will-work sign or perhaps in Wal-Mart—that morose sadness and apathy after maybe suffering a wee bit too much loss.. like after enduing one too many career reversals.. or perhaps after a major family-blow-up right in the middle of a cheery holiday, only to find that one's once-close-relative is now estranged and become strange.

Have you too seen it in their eyes felt for these people? You know that certain look, giving silent witness to the helplessness, the hopelessness, the disillusionment and desperation. Have you felt that subtle nagging fear bite down on you.. perhaps a futureless-despondency.. the feeling of beat-down, the beat-around, the plain ole beat-upness, that total-defeat-mentality?

Hear the Word of the Lord, O Israel! —Jerm. 10:1, nlt

***Lord, I must stay focused on You and hear from you!
I get distracted at times, but don't want to miss our moments of intimacy together.
Help me not to be overly busy so I fail you or those around me.
During this time of year, help me devote time with you in prayer and hearing from you in your holy Word. Amen.***

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. —Ps. 107:20

In the days of Bethesda, the funds to even begin paying for a decent physician were not easy to come by when not feeling well. Those were desperate times. So many with inner diseases and some with acute pain and even outward disfigurement!

And sometimes perhaps, official area workers would have to comb the area only to haul off a few crumpled-over cold and motionless ones who just couldn't wait long enough for the water to stir.

Jesus Christ was inwardly moved as He looked upon **"a great number of disabled people... the blind, the lame, the paralyzed"** (verse 3, niv). So many pitifully miserable sufferers who opted to focus all their attention on the H2O-surface. Could you imagine watching dead leaves and debris swirl round floating on top day after day?

It must have been a troubling site to behold. These were individuals who had pinned all their hopes on getting to the front a bit quicker than the rest of the masses they were with.. to the very spot where the ripples and slight liquid motion might-could happen. Who would be first to react by leaping, pushing, diving or even falling headlong into that so called pool of healing? Each was totally preoccupied with his or her own disability, blindness or physical lameness or paralysis.

The multitude of these miserable were all focused on the pool instead of upon Christ the true healer.. on the water.. on the place.. on the so called traditional religious source of help. So in vain was it, even as the creator God Himself stood in their very midst! Who or what are you listening to? Where is your focus today? We too live during desperate times. I just missed seeing four guys steal an ATM from a very public place with people some forty feet away.

I say [you and I fix our gaze](#) and even dead-bolt our eyes on Christ! He alone can meet all our needs.

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help.

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