

Check Yourself! The kingdom Jesus established is one of a kind. The kingdom of God is holy—meaning “separate, set apart, consecrated.” It looks and acts like Jesus, period. We don't simply equate the kingdom with everything we think is good, noble, and true. Nor can we align the kingdom with any nation, government, or political ideology.

The proof of this comes from the words of Jesus himself. When Jesus was on trial, Pilate asked him if he considered himself to be the king of the Jews. **Jesus responded, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest.”**

When Jesus said that his kingdom was “not from this world,” for it contrasts with the kingdom of the world in every possible way. This is not a simple contrast between good and evil. The contrast is rather between two fundamentally different ways of doing life, the kingdoms of the world are rooted in advancing, one's self-interests and one's own will, while the kingdom of God is centered exclusively on carrying out God's will, even if this requires sacrificing one's own interests. The kingdoms of this world place their trust in whatever power they can exercise to make things happen the way they want. We can think of this kind of power as the power of the sword. In contrast, the kingdom of God refused to use violent coercive power over people, choosing instead to exercise power in serving others.

And nowhere is this better explained than in the lessons from the Hill that Jesus gave to his first disciples who have passed them down to us...

- Let me preface this part of Jesus communication to his Apostles and disciples... There is a darkside to each one of us that secretly undermines our drives to change and grow into the disciples we are called to ... in fact **it is the reason why so many people fall from such****

great heights...the Darkside...Whether you prevail or fail, endure or die, depends more on what you do to yourself than on what the world does to you!! we all have a dark side...the shadow side...the light side is that which I show you...the parts of me which are good and kind and unselfish and honest and loving and then there is the darkside or the shadow sided...

- **The dark side is that which is a motivator in my life but is fueled by brokenness...**
- **Now the darkside needs to be illuminated...so it can be managed. The dark-side if not illuminated by God and overcome ...will limit our success and effectiveness in life...and we all have it...it is the reason why so many people who fall from such great heights...the Darkside...**

Listen 1 John 1:5-9... John writes what he has heard and seen...in order for us to apply and it will bring joy

1 John 1: 5 This is the message we heard from Jesus^[c] and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Being a disciple or follower of Jesus or practicing Discipleship is simply this... walking/living in the light and overcoming the dark...and we all have a darkside..

- **Now the light side is that which is in harmony with God...where our motivations and actions line up...**

- then there is the darkside or the shadow side... the dark side is that which is a motivator in my life also but is fueled often unconsciously by brokenness...and I am often unaware I am walking in it... Hence John saying...One can actually claim they are walking with God...when in fact they are walking not with him...but in darkness...
- Now the darkside is not all bad... the problem is...it is not examined...it needs to be illuminated... he was illuminating the darkside of his disciples...

He was opening their eyes to their darkside...that we often do not even consider dark but good....

- He shared the four blessings of following Jesus and doing good...and now he looks at them...they must be aware of dangers....which will result in great sorrow...loss... **Jesus was opening their eyes to the darkside... so they can overcome it... and truly be who they are called to act Children of the Most High**

Luke 6: 24 “What sorrow awaits you who are rich, for you have your only happiness now. (consumed with the accumulation of money)

²⁵ What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now, for a time of awful hunger awaits you. (Consumed with themselves ...they will find it empty...)

What sorrow awaits you who laugh now, for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow. (living for pleasure)

²⁶ What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets. (so desperate for approval they compromise)

Prosperity, power, position and prestige are all accompanied by spiritual dangers. They are not spiritually neutral...so be on your guard! They all have great potential almost irresistible power to bind us to the flesh and this world. Which will result in great sorrow for it is temporary and gains nothing eternally..

Not only can we suffer great sorrow as disciples from the chasing of prosperity, popularity, and position. Worldly things...we can suffer from dark places in our heart

LK 6: 27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

*35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, **and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High**, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

- **He performs acts of love to those who will not thank him**
- **He performs acts of love to those who hate him**
- **He performs acts of love to those who are not loving towards us**
- **He performs acts of love to those who mistreat and hurt him**

- He performs acts of love to those who do not deserve it
- He performs acts of love to those who will use it against him...
- Because that is what children of the most high King do! It is the way his kingdom operates!

The kind of love Jesus is describing is difficult and contradicts the trends of our earthly Kingdom...it is a love that revolts against the self consumed tendencies we each have.

We have a great example in John 5... Jesus shows compassion to paraplegic, but there is much more going on....

JN 5:1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ² Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,^[a] with five covered porches. ³ Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. ⁵ One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

- **First of all in the midst of all the activity... Jesus noticed this man...for 38 years he sat unnoticed...but not by God...nor Jesus..**
- **Jesus initiated relationship...And He Treated him with full dignity of a human being...he asked him a question...did not assume he wanted help nor healing nor anything else...how often do we just assume what someone needs or wants?**
- **How often do we offer charity but make no attempt to speak to the person as a fellow human being....**
- **This man had no qualities of any kind mentioned, only that he was disabled...Jesus was just compassionate**

JN 5:7 ⁷ “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”⁸ Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected.

They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

- **The religious leaders knew God’s words...but failed to live the words with hearts of love... **not working on the sabbath, was more important than healing someone!** Without even realizing how dark that is!**

John 5: ¹¹ But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”¹² “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded. ¹³ The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. ¹⁴ But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

- **The man later went to the temple...probably to pray and thank God for this miracle and new life...when Jesus found him...**
- **This is important Jesus has now found him twice...both times the man was not even looking for Jesus... because Jesus healing in ones life has much more to do than just physical, or even emotional...**
- **He says to the man...See you are well again...this man at some time was not paralyzed...but now he is well again..**
- **And Jesus says something most important to him...stop sinning or something worse may happen to you..**
- **First time Jesus makes a statement about his character is to call out his real trouble which will cause you greater trouble than being a paraplegic.**
- **There is a darkside in you undealt with sin...maybe he has not even acknowledged it..... Shine Light on it!!**
- **He somehow did something to someone...perhaps they broke his back for it...or perhaps he was self destructive and caused himself harm by his actions... the way you live must change...**

JN 5: ¹⁶ So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. ¹⁷ But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so

am I.” ¹⁸ So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”

What was the problem with these Religious leaders? why were they so unteachable and unwilling to receive any input?

- There is a darkside to each one of us that secretly undermines our drives to change and grow... in fact it is the reason why so many people fall from such great heights... being unteachable
- The Religious leaders were blind to their self righteousness and pride... therefore they were unwilling to examine themselves...
- **When I don't self examine am unteachable , I have no self awareness...which leads to no self regulation...which always leads to sorrow...**
- **The intended result of self examination, is self awareness which then opens the door to self regulation...**
- **So these verses shine light on the darkside... so that it can be overcome managed well with the light Of Jesus words and the power of the Holy Spirit... so we can truly represent the Kingdom well, acting like Children of the Most High...because we are!!**

Luke 6:35..... Then your reward from heaven will be very great, **and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High**, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. ³⁶ You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. end

The kingdom of the world has earthly enemies, and thus fights earthly battles; the kingdom of God, however, is committed to love “their enemies,” thereby treating them as friends.

In a violent world filled with people vying for power over others—the kingdom that Jesus inaugurated offers people the peacemaking beauty of God.

The challenge is to retrain our eyes, ears, and hearts to see differently than what the world has trained us...and as we begin to see life differently and more deeply...then we will find ourselves being challenged to live more faithfully, passionately and intentionally as a witness of God in our everyday world.

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We can think of this kind of power as the power of the cross, as the cross is the ultimate manifestation of the character and power of God.

Sounds like a huge waste of love to me!!!! I can much more relate to love that you give out...sparingly, stingily, and to those who deserve it....give it to those whom you trust and will love you back or at least it can be bartered to receive something back from...some kind of payback...

- The path of suffer is to rejoice in stuff rather than in the One who offers us the stuff;
 - It is to be satisfied with the material goods of life rather than to seek to do the greater good that God calls us to do material goods.
 - In sharp contrast, the path of life, the way of Jesus, is to see the world through the eyes of the Lord, the eyes of its Savior, it is to lift up those who are hungry, who are poor and who are oppressed
 - Prosperity, power, position and prestige are all accompanied by spiritual dangers. They are not spiritually neutral...so be on your guard! **What can appear as blessings can bring great sorrow..**
- **the Darkside...Whether your prevail or fail, endure or die, depends more on what you do to yourself than on what the world does to you!!**
 - **Now the light side is that which is in harmony with God...where our motivations and actions line up... then there is the darkside or the shadow side...**

The dark side is that which is a motivator in my life also but is fueled often unconsciously by brokenness...and I am often unaware I am walking in it...

Hence John saying...One can actually claim they are walking with God...when in fact they are walking not with him...but in darkness now the darkside is not all bad... the problem is...it is not examined...it needs to be illuminated... he was illuminating the darkside of his disciples...

**You see love should be given out sparingly and certainly not squandered!!! Jesus just throws it around...sheesh
And that is what Jesus is addressing to his disciples...**

- **A person born into poverty make be motivated by that darkness to succeed and achieve which is fine...but if that motivation is fueled by the belief since I was poor I am bad...in other words shame and that I will become a whole person by success ...once it is achieved those feeling of worthlessness and shame are still there...so many movie stars, sports stars successful business people ...succeed and yet feel no better for it...as they still hear the voice in their heads they are worthless...**
- **So many women who have poor father relationships feel if they just get a man to love them they will be ok...but even when they do they are filled with emptiness ...something is still missing.. men the same.. **the inside is not fixed by changing the outside...that is why the Holy Spirit indwells us...it is an inside out job...****
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listen1 john 1:5-7... John writes what he has heard and seen...in order for us to apply and it will bring joy

¹ John 1: ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our ¹ joy complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

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LK 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

*LK 6:32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' lend to `sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.***

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- **Jesus knew what we like the religious traditionalists often forgot... God's presence is in our midst whether we like or not are busy or idle...faithful or faithless.**
- **God is present in the most breathtaking vista...or the dirtiest brothel, the most affluent boardroom, or the poorest mud hut in Central America or the most spiritually alive church.**

He is present here today!!

Perhaps this why Jesus spent most of his time in places deemed unholy by his contemporaries. Evidence of God's presence and movement can be found anywhere and anytime if we take the time to look.

We need to realize that simply living in the world means we are already spending time in the presence of God. You see spending time with God is not limited to nor confined to your morning devotions or lack thereof.

So what we need to do is live more attentively in the *midst* of our active and busy lives...to notice what God is doing...

Now our problem is we have not been trained to observe the work of God among us...but have been trained to notice other things...

- **We notice *temporal things*...like new cars, new clothes just new things period. The latest trends and fads instead of things that have enduring qualities**

- We notice *people's faults*, weaknesses, and idiosyncrasies,
- We notice *successful people*... We enjoy People magazine... especially watching the successful fall

The challenge is to retrain our eyes, ears and hearts to see differently than what the world has trained us...and as we begin to see life differently and more deeply...then we will find ourselves being challenged to live more faithfully, passionately and intentionally as a witness of God in our everyday world.

We will see God at work in our home, our job our school our relationships...we will see that all of life is a spiritual quest of God to touch, heal and bring life to a world looking for life and meaning in the natural temporal world when it is really found as the spirit is present and actively works with no differentiating between what is spiritual and sacred and what is natural and secular.

LK 5:33 They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

- John the Baptist claimed to know God and at least his students fasted...practiced an outward sign of religious piety...but they noticed not the world around them in need of God...like John did...
- There is a problem that Jesus cites with Religious folk... they are hypocrites ...They think they know how to act...but they do not....
- Praying and fasting was designed to prepare one to draw close to God it was dressing up in a spiritual sense to draw near God who was not present...
- But to the Pharisees...it was a way to show how holy they were...they were not drawing close to God ...but drawing attention to themselves...they knew who and how often certain people fasted and prayed...is was a list to be on...they were hypocrites.
- If they wanted to be close to God...he was in their presence...no need to fast to call on him...he is six feet from them.
- You and your students don't even do that...

LK 5:34 Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast." *LK 5:36 He told them this parable: "No one tears a patch from a new garment*

and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.' "

- **A wineskin was a goatskin sewed together at the edges to form a watertight bag. New wine, expanding as it aged, stretched the wineskin. New wine, therefore, could not be put into a wineskin that had already been stretched, or the taut skin would burst.**
- **The Pharisees and people become rigid like old wineskins. They could not accept faith in Jesus that would not be contained or limited by man-made or the way we have always done it ideas or rules. Your capacity to grow, like a wineskin, can become rigid and prevent you from accepting the new life that Christ offers. Keep your heart pliable and open to accepting the life-changing truths of Christ.**
- The man later went to the temple...probably to pray and thank God for this miracle and new life...when Jesus found him...
- This is important Jesus has now found him twice...both times the man was not even looking for Jesus... because Jesus healing in ones life has much more to do than just physical, or even emotional...
- He says to the man...See you are well again...this man at some time was not paralyzed...but now he is well again..
- And Jesus says something most important to him...stop sinning or something worse may happen to you..
- Sin was a part of his problem...sin means to fall short of the target...he somehow did something to someone...perhaps they broke his back for it...or perhaps he was self destructive and caused himself harm by his actions...
- But the Lord is warning him...to check his heart and actions...his body is healed...but there is more... the way you live has to change...

Jesus is always setting houses in order ...dealing with what is ...to what could be...

What was the problem with these Religious leaders? why were they so unteachable and unwilling to receive any input?

- They have the same problem many of us have...They were self righteous...they were right according to themselves...therefore they were unwilling to examine themselves... **No Self Examination necessary!!** what inside me motivates why I act the way I do outwardly?
 - **No self examination leads to no self awareness** of why I do what I do? so I do not know if it is healthy, unhealthy,
 - **When I don't self examine, I have no self awareness...which leads to no self regulation...which always leads to failure...**
 - **The intended result of self regulation, is self awareness which then opens the door to self regulation...**
- **There is a darkside to each one of us that secretly undermines our drives to change and grow... in fact it is the reason why so many people fall from such great heights...the Darkside...Whether you prevail or fail, endure or die, depends more on what you do to yourself than on what the world does to you!!**

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- Jesus is operating way out of the box of acceptable religious practice...his interest is building bridges to the Father...which will always require you to operate in different ways to reach different people...
- First off you will need to notice that Jesus puts no religious requirements on this man whom in our day we would call a paraplegic.

You see Jesus was at party a feast in Jerusalem one time...it is telling of his heart, that at this feast which involved the whole city...he went to hang out at a pool where the blind, lame and paralyzed were...the place where no one goes at a festival...lets pick up the story

JN 5:1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

JN 5:7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

- Jesus saw and engaged in conversation with this man learning why he was there and what had happened to him...he cared about this man
- Picture this ...the pool is very large, it is filled by an underground spring, it is covered by a roof of sorts that requires five pillars to hold it up
- Occasionally air from the spring would rise up through the pool and stir the water ...and there was a tradition that stated the first one in the water after the stirring would be healed...they actually believed the phenomena was an angel stirring the water.
- They have their crazy beliefs and we have ours...I just read the other day
- It was the gathering place of the hopeless of the community...
- Who begged for a living, they were the poorest of the poor...

- this man was paralyzed...that means something...he would be the worst off of the physically disabled because...most likely he would have no control of his bowels and bladder
- The whole place would have a smell...and he would most likely smell the worst...
- Hands calloused from dragging himself around...or he would have to wait for people to move the pallet...but he would lay on...
- Jesus didn't pick out just any disabled person, He chose the one in most need...
- Why? Because he loves people and has come to save them...
- *JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*
- This pool would not be the place to go during a festival and pretty much any other time ...Jesus did not come to partake in Religious festival which this was but to help people...so this is where you would expect to find him...at the place where people need help...
- This man would be without medical help, socially isolated, religiously ostracized for he would be considered unclean... he had no future life would be the same day in and day out...but he held on to one hope...getting in the pool...

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- **He came to heal the world...so he goes out into the world...**
- This pool would not be the place to go during a festival and pretty much any other time ...Jesus did not come to partake in Religious festival which this was but to help people...so this is where you would expect to find him...at the place where people need help...
- This man would be without medical help, socially isolated, religiously ostracized for he would be considered unclean... he had no future... life would be the same day in and day out...but he held on to one hope...getting in the pool...

So Jesus asked him...do you want to get well? Great question...to get well you have to want to get well...

- **Sometimes we think we know the way to get better depending on some one and a billion chance...(beating everyone into the pool) and if people would just help us do it our way...they would see....**
- Sometimes we can get used to being uncomfortable...we kind of get comfortably uncomfortable

- The God who made him is the God who could heal him...
- We were motivated to get well...
- Perhaps this man took some solace in being a victim...it was kind of comfortable... after all he did not do it...he was treated wrong...what can he do?
- Perhaps this man took some solace in being bitter...at the world, God and people
- Perhaps this man did not want to get healed because then his life would have to change...he would have to become responsible to work, and reconnect with society...
- So Jesus asked him...Do You want to get Well??
- You must have the want to...
- The man immediately responds...no one will help him get in the pool when it stirs...they probably use him as a step ladder..
- A thought...How come no one would help him? No family or friends? Over time did his bitterness push everyone away?
- I know in our time when people are bitter they can become cynics...and push people away from them ...leaving themselves isolated rather than integrated...sad but true.
- But Jesus never lets people's defense mechanisms stop his care or continued attempts to connect...his authority was expressed in compassion

JN 5:7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

JN 5:8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

JN 5:11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

JN 5:12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

JN 5:13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

- **Jesus healed a disabled man with absolutely no fanfare...because the man needed it..**

JN 5:14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- The man later went to the temple...probably to pray and thank God for this miracle and new life...when Jesus found him...
- This is important Jesus has now found him twice...both times the man was not even looking for Jesus... because Jesus healing in ones life has much more to do than just physical, or even emotional...
- He says to the man...See you are well again...this man at some time was not paralyzed...but now he is well again..
- And Jesus says something most important to him...stop sinning or something worse may happen to you..
- Sin was a part of his problem...sin means to fall short of the target...he somehow did something to someone...perhaps they broke his back for it...or perhaps he was self destructive and caused himself harm by his actions...
- But the Lord is warning him...to check his heart and actions...his body is healed...but there is more... the way you live has to change...

Jesus is always setting houses in order ...dealing with what is ...to what could be...

What was the problem with these Religious leaders? why were they so unteachable and unwilling to receive any input?

- They have the same problem many of us have...They were self righteous...they were right according to themselves...therefore they were unwilling to examine themselves... **No Self Examination necessary!! what inside me motivates why I act the way I do outwardly?**
 - **No self examination leads to no self awareness of why I do what I do? so I do not know if it is healthy, unhealthy,**
 - **When I don't self examine, I have no self awareness...which leads to no self regulation...which always leads to failure...**
 - **The intended result of self regulation, is self awareness which then opens the door to self regulation...**
- **There is a darkside to each one of us that secretly undermines our drives to change and grow... in fact it is the reason why so many people fall from such great heights...the Darkside...Whether you prevail or fail, endure or die, depends more on what you do to yourself than on what the world does to you!!**

listen1 john 1:5-7... John writes what he has heard and seen...in order for us to apply and it will bring joy

¹ John 1: ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our ¹ joy complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Being a disciple or follower of Jesus or practicing Discipleship is simply this... walking/living in the light and overcoming the dark...and we all have a darkside..

- **Now the light side is that which is in harmony with God...where our motivations and actions line up...**
- **then there is the darkside or the shadow side... the dark side is that which is a motivator in my life also but is fueled often unconsciously by brokenness...and I am often unaware I am walking in it... Hense John saying...One can actually claim they are walking with God...when in fact they are walking not with him...but in darkness...**
- **now the darkside is not all bad... the problem is...it is not examined...it needs to be illuminated... he was illuminating the darkside of his disciples...**

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This is how the King serves...his servants ought to also....

Hebrews tells us how we are the servant of God is to act...with compassion

*2CO 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **compassion** and the God of all comfort, ⁴ **who comforts us** in all our troubles, **so that we can comfort** those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

and out of our humanity we help other humans...

*HEB 5: 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going **astray**, since he himself is subject to weakness.*

PHP 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

PHP 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

PHP 2:7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

PHP 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

PHP 2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

PHP 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

PHP 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

and sometimes we are the servant and sometimes we are the served...you see we are both...we serve and are in need of help... at the same time...

does anyone need help today from God like the man at the well who just could not seem to overcome his physical, emotional and spiritual issues....

God is here to Heal and we are here to help...

and sometimes we are the servant and sometimes we are the served...you see we are both...we serve and are in need of help... at the same time...

does anyone need help today from God like the man at the well who just could not seem to overcome his physical, emotional and spiritual issues....

God is here to Heal

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beware of your motivations...they set the course of your life..

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

- **God has no darkside ...no side of his being that he is unaware of ...Hids action and motivations are always in algment ...and are perfect...**
- **Do you realize in order for you to walk in the light all of you must be illuminated...**
- **a person born into poverty make be motivated by that darkness to succeed and achieve which is fine...**
- **but if that motivation is fueled by the belief since I was poor I am bad...in other words shame and that I will become a whole person by success ...once it is achieved those feeling of worthlessness and shame are still there...so many movie stars, sports stars successful business people ...succeed and yet feel no better for it...as they still hear the voice in their heads they are worthless...**
- **so many women who have poor father relationships feel if they just get a man they will be ok...but even when they do they are filled with emptiness ...something is still missing..**

- **men the same.. the inside is not fixed by changing the outside...that is why the Holy Spirit indwells us...it is an inside out job...**
- **the dark-side if not illuminated by God and overcome ...will limit our success and effectiveness in life... it is destructive to our lives...and we all have it...**