

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

I HAVE SEEN MIRACLES

Text: "And Immediately the Man Was Made Whole, and Took Up His Bed, and Walked; and on the Same Day Was the Sabbath." John 5:9.

A bird flew into a church one Sabbath when the windows were open. That evening the sexton closed the windows and doors, imprisoning the bird. One day in the following week a man entered the church and was attracted by the fluttering of the exhausted bird where the light was filtering through a closed window. He went to the window, lifted it, and the bird flew out into the sunshine, to air and food, to renewal of strength and the enjoyment of liberty. That must have seemed a miracle to the bird.



REV. D. M. CLARK

A sick man lay by the pool of Bethesda. He waited for the waters to be troubled so that he might immerse himself and, according to the popular superstition, be healed. He had been sick thirty-eight years. The intermittent spring did bubble up occasionally, but evidently this man was very weak or badly crippled for he could not get into the troubled waters and there was no one who would help him.

One day a man stopped and said to him, "Would you like to be made whole?" The stranger added, "Arise, take up your mat and walk." The cripple arose and walked. That was a miracle. It was a miracle to the cripple. Someone came by with a higher wisdom, greater power and deeper sympathy.

How many things this man had in his environment that were unable to help him!

Even the five porches of the pool might be considered a symbol of the culture of his time. But culture itself does not cure sick folk. It does not integrate personality. A palatial mansion to live in is no guarantee of happiness. The divided home is not united by building a larger house and buying period furniture.

We have a saying "time heals." With this man time had much opportunity to effect a cure. He did not grow out of his malady in thirty-eight years. Time is really potent in itself for very little. To hide an infection and wait for time to cure it is most dangerous. To cover a surface where there is hidden bleeding is not to cure.

In response to Jesus' inquiry, "Would you like to get well?" the cripple replied, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool, but while I am coming another steppeth down before me."

I can understand why no one helped him. They had unconsciously learned to pass him by without noticing. He had become a fixture in the scene. He could be taken for granted. Or if someone happened to mention him, there was the reply, "Oh! Yes! he's a hopeless case; if not he would have been cured long ago." They little knew that he had never touched the troubled water. His need was beyond their sympathy. And of course there are human needs that are beyond the help even of friends.

The man could not help himself sufficiently to get into the pool. Many men have found it impossible to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. Even men who are well have certain incapacities.

Someone says that Jesus cured this man because he was the worst case at Bethesda pool. I believe he cured him because he had an indomitable and courageous spirit. Jesus knew what was in this man. This cripple was a splendid fellow. When Jesus said, "Do you want to get well?" his implied answer was, "Don't you see that I've been trying to get into the pool?" He proved his desire by his will power. He had tried and failed again and again. Yet he never lost hope.

Look at this man again. I want you to see the superb worth of him. Listen to an imaginary conversation in a Jerusalem home.

GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



Deadline for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

BAPTIST

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

"Mother, I passed Bethesda again today and I saw that old cripple trying to get into the pool. How long has he been there?"

The mother answers, "Why, I believe he's been trying to get into that pool for more than twenty-five years, ever since I was a girl. When things don't go right with me I always think of the will power of that old cripple."

Among our most precious possessions are the lives of men who have tried and failed. It isn't worth that can be measured always in a material scale that makes the greatest contribution to the general wealth of the spiritual world. God does not judge us by the strength of our legs, but by the hope in our eyes, the intention of our soul.

"Arise, take up your mat and walk!" said Jesus. The man had capacity for instant response. Not all men are keen and alert to a new vitality and a more vigorous life. An Augustine wanted spiritual cure, but "not now."

When Jesus met this man again in the temple he said, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing befall thee." Jesus knew the cause of his previous condition. He knew that life would continue to try and test him. He knew that an obedient will was the man's final salvation. Looking the man over again, we believe that he had it and triumphed, though he was past sixty.

BETHLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. G. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. "H" St., Las Vegas

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
"D" & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship

*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

YWCA
WORLD FELLOWSHIP
WEEK NOV. 8-14

DENTON
PHARMACY

OUR EXPERT PHARMACIST
Has your Doctor's
ENDORSEMENT

NOW 642-4381
OPEN

H & OWENS
IN THE GOLDEN WEST SHOPPING CENTER