



“Do you want to be made well?”
– John 5:6

The Reality of Sin

5TH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST

1. Sin is an illness of the soul and body

- ▶ “In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.” (Jn. 4:3)
- ▶ Sin damages all three of the basic abilities and powers of the soul
 - ▶ Mind
 - ▶ Heart
 - ▶ Will



William Blake, (b. 1757- d.1827) "Nebuchadnezzar" - Oil on canvas - Collection of the British Museum
English poet, painter, engraver; one of the earliest and greatest artists of Romanticism.

2. Sin promotes isolation

- ▶ “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” (Jn. 5:7)

- ▶ **Shame**

- ▶ **Sin is selfish by nature**

- ▶ Lot

- ▶ “...for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds.” (2 Pet. 2:8)



2. Sin promotes isolation

▶ Sin is selfish by nature

▶ Ahab

- ▶ “So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.”
(1 Kin. 21:4)

▶ Competitiveness



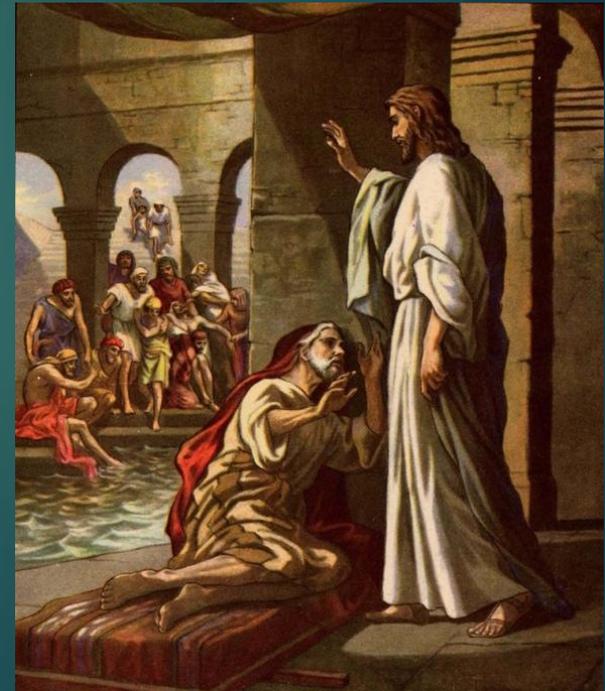
2. Sin promotes isolation

- ▶ **Intolerant of counsel or judgement**
 - ▶ “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” (Pro. 18:1)



3. Sin is void of loyalty

- ▶ Those around the pool did not help the paralytic man
- ▶ Sin is injustice
- ▶ We tolerate being unjust to others but not when we are treated unjustly



What do we learn about sin's remedy?

▶ It must be properly identified

- ▶ “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.” (Is. 5:20)

▶ Healing comes from God

- ▶ We are incapable of healing ourselves
- ▶ The processes of healing can be unexpected
- ▶ Power of His healing is limitless

What do we learn about sin's remedy?

- ▶ **Healing will never be coerced**

- ▶ We must will to be healed
- ▶ How do we tell God we want to be healed?

- ▶ **Requires our active participation**

- ▶ “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” (Jn. 4:14)
- ▶ “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12)