

Hope for the Helpless, part 2

How do you respond when a patient undergoes extreme measures for physical healing but does not make the internal changes necessary for sustained health? Think of an example and discuss in your group.

Review [John 5:1-9](#) (part 1) and read the rest of the story from [John 5:8-20](#) (NIV):

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 Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

¹¹ But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

¹² So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

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 Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

A Nursing Assessment

- What was the man’s condition when he met Jesus for the second time? What concerns did Jesus express?
- How did the Pharisees exert a powerful influence in this story? What pressures did they put on the healed man and on Jesus?

Applying the Bible to Nursing (Find [more questions](#).)

- What outcome did the man experience as a result of his encounter with Jesus? What outcome did Jesus want this man to experience? How do they compare?
- What can you learn from Jesus to help you care for a patient who seems unmotivated to change?

Putting Faith into Practice

- How can you help your patients understand that health is multidimensional: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual?
- What can you say to help your patients consider their spiritual health and need for Jesus’ healing?