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?