

Notes on Message - John 4:46-5:9

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

Two men in crises encounter Jesus. Their day had come to make a saving transaction with Jesus. The Lord's willingness and their faith in Him resulted in a good thing happening for them.

• 4:47-54 *"An official ... found Jesus and begged him to come to Capernaum with him to help his son, who was about to die... Jesus told him, "Go back home, your son will live." When he got home, he found that the fever had left the boy the same time that Jesus said, "Your son will live."*

• 5:1-8 *"One of the men laying there (by the pool of Bethesda) had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew how long he had been ill, he asked him, "Would you like to be healed?" ... Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your sleeping mat, and walk!" (And he did.)*

• **Jesus, God the Son, came to our world to encounter and save people in two ways:**

(1) Save us from the sinking ship that this world is and bring us home to the Father.

(2) Save us from troubles we are having.

Being saved and helped by the Lord, however, is a transaction. He's always saying, "Let's make a deal." Jesus encounters us. We have a need and he wants to help. We ask and he gives.

• **There are two kinds of people regarding their troubles.**

Jesus says, "Come unto me -- reach for my hand--walk and talk with me-- be my friend." (1) Some come. (2) Some say, "I can't come because I bought some land. I bought a yoke of oxen. I just got married. (Luke 14:16-20) They are too busy with life in their world.

• **The basic things are a gift to all people.** Jesus said, *"Your Father in heaven gives his sunlight both to the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust."* (Matthew 5:45)

• **Real help from God involves a transaction.** The evil and unjust do not get help because they are evil and unjust but because they don't ask. They don't ask because they do not want a relationship with God yet. **But we are the ones who meet Jesus and make a deal with our friend.**

Hebrews 10:38-39 *"The Coming One will come and not delay. A righteous person shall live by faith but if he turns away my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation. "*