

Paralyzed

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

Have you ever gotten stuck? Like really stuck. Like brain-in-neutral, unable to even see a path forward, feet glued to the floor type of stuck. It happens to all of us from time to time, and for all kinds of reasons, and for any length of time too.

1. What was the last time that you realized that you had gotten stuck?
2. How did it feel to be stuck?
3. What helped you get unstuck, and how did it help?

Book

John 5:1-9

This healing pool is more than just a spring. It's a place gathering of hope. However the number of people that actually do get healed is very low. For a man that's been ill for 38 years, the outlook of healing must be grim. He's very likely stuck.

1. In what way is the ill man paralyzed by more than just his body?
2. Rather than taking Jesus' command as a "kick-in-the-behind", what other ways might this man take the command?
3. In what ways might the fact that this story happens on a sabbath be significant to the story?

Took

Whether we're taking a break, waiting for some perceived block to be removed, or frozen by fear or doubt, being paralyzed occasionally is a part of the human experience. How we respond and navigate that paralysis is a whole different matter though, and Jesus is always standing nearby with an encouraging wave.

1. What sort of situations do you find it most difficult to listen for encouragement from Jesus?
2. How many of your own types of paralysis do you believe others experience as well?
3. What can you do this week to practice listening for Jesus' encouragement through a paralyzing situation?