**Thesis:** We’ve all heard the question, “What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object?” But what if we feel like we’re the immovable object faced against the unstoppable force of God’s work? The only thing that can hinder God from working in our lives is our own opposition to it. When we humble ourselves to Him and open ourselves up to the work He wants to accomplish, nothing can stop Him.

**Introduction:** This is The Jesus Podcast, a year of stories showcasing the depth of Christ’s love and the glory of God’s truth. I’m Zak from Pray.com. As you listen to today’s captivating tale, make sure you take a second to follow the podcast to stay up to date on the epic narratives of Jesus’ story!

**Context:** Today’s story takes us through another marvelous encounter with Jesus meeting the needs of an outcast. We’ll find a man who has been disabled for a long time. While at one time he may have desperately longed to be healed, 38 years later, he finds himself stuck in life, unwilling to do what’s necessary to find healing. Perhaps at one point, he tried to find healing in the legendary waters of the pool at Bethesda, but no longer did he hold onto that hope that seemed to grow fainter with each passing year as age only added to his already dwindled physical condition. With no means of getting ahead, he resigns himself to live in his condition forever. But he’ll soon learn the importance of trusting in Christ’s offer to heal and His power to provide it.

**Message:** I’m sure we can all think about an area in our life where we want to be healed, whether it’s a physical affliction, emotional scars, or mental condition. Ailments only seem to slow us down in life. While most people would gladly receive healing in these struggles, some people may say they want healing, but when it comes down to it, don’t actually want it.

**This isn’t to say that they wouldn't take it, but sometimes the fear that we won’t actually get better prevents us from taking the necessary steps to heal**. The man at the pool of Bethesda was one such person. For 38 years, he was cast down and cast out by others. For decades he had wondered if there was any way to change his circumstances. Day after day, he longed to be well, to use his body as God intended it when He wove it together in his mother’s womb. But day after day, the thought of this actually happening strayed from his mind and heart. Any chance of being healed, real or perceived, slipped from reality and imagination.

In the midst of despair, Jesus seeks him out. Finding the man in the same place he laid in every day, Jesus asks the question, “Do you want to be made well?” On the surface, it’s a simple yes or no question. One that seems to have an obvious response for someone who had been stricken with paralysis for his entire life.

But the man doesn’t respond with either expected response. Instead, he jumps into a list of excuses. Perhaps the question met his ears with a bitter sting, causing him to jump into what he rehearsed day after day: all the reasons he *couldn’t* be healed, whether he wanted to be or not. With others likely asking him this same question over the years, another inquiry from a stranger seemed to be the final straw.

But this was no ordinary man asking the question. This was Jesus, the renowned and profound healer. The One who knew this man before he was even born. The One who came to make all things new. When Jesus asks us the question of whether or not we want to be healed, we can eliminate any excuses we’ve tucked away in our back pockets.

All we have to do is think deeply and answer yes or no. Excuses have never gotten us anywhere. All they do is postpone finding healing and a resolution to our problems. They’re but a meager and weak attempt at protecting ourselves from more pain caused by disappointment if healing doesn’t come.

We combat our excuses by trusting in the authority and power of Jesus. Once we honestly answer the question if we want to be healed, we must understand and appreciate the One who asks it. Jesus created everything and holds all things in His hand. There is nothing outside of His authority and His power reigns over it all. This means that Jesus not only has the heart to see us healed, but also has the ability to provide it just as He promises. Perhaps we’ve been let down by others’ offer to help us in our affliction. While there were good intentions behind it, their efforts didn’t seem to measure up to our expectations. But God will never fail us when it comes to healing. Christ’s ministry is filled with signs and wonders that affirm His claim to be the all-powerful and ever-loving Son of God. He has given us these miracles as a means to help us trust in Him.

*Proverbs 3:5-6* reads *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

We may not fully comprehend how God provides healing, but that’s not what He requires for us to receive it. The road to restoration begins by trusting in Him and His word.

But trust is only the beginning. Jesus meets us where we’re at, stuck in our afflictions. And while He holds all the power to get us out of that place, He does call us to take a leap of faith. We get to be an active participant in His miracle of healing. Think about our story today. As Jesus looks upon the man at the pool of Bethesda, He has already provided healing when He commands him to get up. But the man would only experience the incredible blessing if he got up in faith, trusting that Jesus truly did make him well. If we’re not willing to take that first step of following Jesus, we’ll never see where He’s leading us and how He’s healing us. When we obey Jesus, He proves His might, which in turn deepens our faith to grow in obedience.

What an amazing moment when we see He has done everything He has promised to do! And how even more incredible it is when we get to tell others about it. Just like Baruch, we get to walk in the joy of the Lord and allow it to pour out onto others. We get to proclaim to the world that we’ve been healed and point their attention to the One who healed us. God deserves our praise for the miraculous work He does in our lives.

David writes a relevant song of praise in *Psalm 103:1 “Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”*

Don’t be afraid to tell others that you have been healed by God. While some may be skeptical or even judgment over such a claim, we know what is true, and God can use us to draw others to His healing touch.

The moments we feel stuck in life may seem insurmountable to us, but they’re nothing but a stepping stone for God to accomplish His plan to bring glory to His name. Even when we’re stuck, God is still working. The story of Joseph is a great reminder of this. Being sold into slavery at the young age of 17, it wasn’t until he was 30 years old that He saw how God was working in his waiting. We don’t have the whole picture of all that God is doing, but as we press on with patient and determined faith, He will reveal more of it to us.

Do you want to be made well? Deeply reflect on what your heart desires. Respond to His offer to bring us healing. Trust in His power and authority. And joyfully proclaim the name of Jesus the Healer!