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**Theme:** Stir The Water!

**Scripture:** John 5:6-7 (NIV) *Jesus saw an invalid lying near the pool and said to him, "Do you want to get well." "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."*

**A Thought:** In one of my first batch of Bottom Lines I wrote about my own "stir the water" moment with a family (father, mother and child). For brevity sake this is what happened....on a warm day and moments after I had enjoyed a wonderful Peruvian lunch I decided to continue reading the book of Matthew 25:31-46 in the comfort of my car. I was engrossed in the sheep and goats parable where Jesus made a distinction between the two. Whereby the "goats" verses 42 and 43 (NIV) were pertinent to my present angst... *"I was hungry; and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43) I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me. I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."* Truth be told Jesus snared me right in my comfortable leathered car seat. The family was asking for a couple of dollars for bus fare and I was too concerned that they were interrupting my time with the Lord. I tried to avoid them. Listen... my spiritual priority was similar to the Jewish leadership Sabbath edict. We eventually exchanged pleasantries, prayed and their request was granted. Happily so! I was so busy being religious that the father's approach was a blur and his presence did not register in my conscience. Let's go back two millennium: I was probably one of those folks the invalid was talking about to Jesus. Yes, I traipsed through the covered colonnades countless times and passed the pool (Bethesda) or possibly jumped in and was oblivious to those at pool side, the blind, the lame and the paralyzed. The irony is that my time with the Bible I was reading words and not the Word.... *"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it."* Luke 11:28 (ESV)

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Have you had a chance to “stir the water”? Did you follow through?
- How open are you to assist someone in their time of need?
- Do you keep your brother in prayer (issues that include....health, financial, family, depression, alcohol and drugs intervention)?

**Scriptures to read:**

- 1 King 3:12; Psalm 110:105; Proverbs 15:23; Matthew 4:4; Luke 8:21.11:28;
- John 1:1-3, 10:35; Acts 6:7, 12:24; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20;
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:22-27

**Quote:**

Soren Kierkegaard, Philosopher and Theologian

*“When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me. " (www.tentmaker.org)*

**Bottom Line:**

Jesus was trying to explain to the disciples that he was not talking about salvation by works but a clarion call to the righteous for compassion. The disciples did not get it and sadly at times in my “religious” busyness I do not grasp the true significance of the parable. Mister uppity-up learned a very important lesson. First, do not to avoid the Lord’s work when you are enjoying the world of comfort and second, extend yourself to assist those in need. The Word tells us that we should be the first responders. Don’t be a passerby assist your brother or sister into the pool and “*stir the water!*”

**NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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