

Christ is Risen! Today, on the Sunday of the Paralytic, the Gospel of John 5:1-15 was read. It speaks of the interaction between the paralytic and Jesus Christ in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate which was a pool in which those that were blind, lame, paralyzed, etc. would wait for the moving of the water by an angel to step in first and be healed. This man, a paralytic for 38 years was never able to be the first, and when asked if he would like to be healed, responded he had no one to help him in. It was then that Jesus Christ said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And he was healed and did so!

Just imagine how lonely this man who suffered from paralysis was for 38 years not having anyone by his side to help him into the pool. How difficult it was, although he was with others who suffered, he still felt totally alone as he responded he had no one. He suffered from extreme poverty. What is the poverty he suffered from? He suffered from the poverty of loneliness.

Dearest ones of God, do we suffer from a paralysis which makes us feel as if we are alone? We learn today from the paralytic, that we aren't alone, for he cried out to God, "Help me, I have no one else!" In God's compassion He responds and reassures the suffering man that he is not alone, he says, "I am here and will never leave you alone!"

Let us remember in our times of paralysis whether from loneliness, health, depression, etc. that we are not alone, that God is always with us, and we must reach out to Him asking for help knowing that help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.