

## Opportunity for a Change

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

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## What We Will Learn

- Recognize opportunity for a change
  - New pursuit
  - Or new approach for same pursuit
- Implement change as needed
- David relocates to Philistine territory
- To continue with avoidance of Saul
- Christ teaching by illustration
- Interactions with man at Bethesda pool

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## Recognize Opportunity And Implement Change

- Current pursuit or approach to the pursuit is no longer promising
  - Recognize need, identify needed change, and implement the change
  - Recognize and accept new opportunity offer
- Abandon current pursuit for new one
- Add new pursuit with the current
- Terminate current approach and start new approach to the same pursuit

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## David Relocates to Philistine Territory

- Avoiding Saul within Israel increasingly risky
- Granted refuge inside Philistine territory
- Assigned own settlement in Ziklag
  - Safe distance plus safe boundary from Saul
  - Gained peace due to international boundary
  - Expanded opportunity to rule over followers
  - And administer their affairs
- 1 Samuel 27:1–7

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## 1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

1 But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

- Recognize need for change
- Identify type of change needed
- Determine how to implement the change

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## 1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath.

3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

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### 1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

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### 1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

- New opportunities and peace for David
- Expanded opportunity to rule over followers
- And administer their affairs

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### Christ Teaching— Interactions at Bethesda Pool

- Man disabled for 38 years lied by the pool
- Sought to be first into the pool after a stir
- Had not succeed for a long time
- Jesus offered him a new approach to healing
- But man clung to hope of healing from pool
- Explained why he had failed for a long time
- John 5:1–7

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### John 5 (NIV)

1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

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### John 5 (NIV)

3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed<sup>1</sup>.

[Footnote 1] Some manuscripts include here, wholly or in part, —and they waited for the moving of the waters.  
4 From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had.

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### John 5 (NIV)

5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

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### John 5 (NIV)

6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

7 "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."

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### Man Leaves Bethesda Pool for New Mission

- Jesus offers man new opportunity again
- A healing and a command
- Healed, man implemented command
- Did not know who healed him
- Later found out it was Jesus
- Began new mission of spreading the gospel
- John 5:8–15

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### John 5 (NIV)

8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

- Healing: "Get up!"
- Command: "Pick up your mat and walk." Proclaim your healing with testimony.

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### John 5 (NIV)

10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

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### John 5 (NIV)

13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

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### John 5 (NIV)

15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- Interaction with Jewish leaders ushered his new mission of spreading the gospel
- Because he embraced new opportunity of "Pick up your mat and walk"

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## What We Learned

- Recognize opportunity for a change
- And implement change as needed
- David relocated to Philistine territory
- Gained rest from Saul
- And opportunity to manage follower affairs
- Interactions with man at Bethesda pool illustrate opportunity for new approach to healing and new mission

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