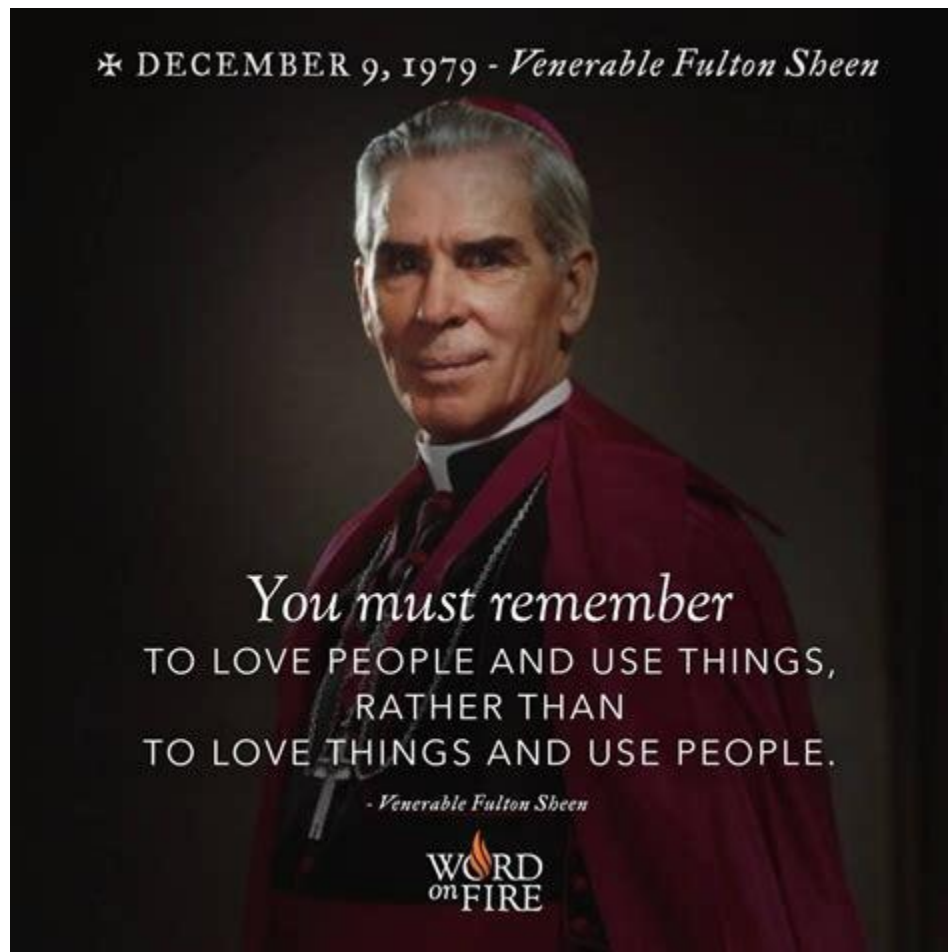


FROM FATHER JOHN: *"The LORD of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob. Come! behold the deeds of the LORD, the astounding things he has wrought on earth."* (Psalm 46)



"There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me.' Jesus said to him, 'Rise, take up your mat, and walk.' immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked." (John 5:1-9)

Jesus healed a man in the gospel passage above. The man was sick for thirty-eight years. He did not have to do anything in order to be healed other than to allow our Lord Jesus to heal him. Our Lord asked him a simple question, "Do you want to be well?" Of course he wanted to be well, we all want to be well. The sick man answered that he can't get to the pool on time. Then, Jesus commands, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk."

I find this interesting because the man who had been ill for thirty-eight years was waiting for someone to offer him assistance. Our Lord Jesus certainly offered his assistance! But, not in the way the man imagined. Jesus is the source of all 'living water' so he has no need to carry the man to the pool. Rather, he commands the man to get up, and the man miraculously gets up, walks and carries his mat.

We see Jesus' authority in this miracle; the authority of the Son of God, the authority of God present to us here on earth. Our Lord Jesus is not merely a teacher, He is not merely a healer, He is not merely a good man. Rather, He is the Son of God and the Lord of Lords who once again takes pity on someone and heals him on the Sabbath which is one of the things that gets him in trouble with the religious authorities.

Always remember that Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord of Lords, who does marvelous and wondrous things for us. And He does them every day. We just need to take the time to look for them; to look for the presence of our Lord Jesus in our own lives. Jesus demonstrates His healing power and His power to give life in the gospel above. God's love is so great that this power is readily available to us. It's even available to those who have no faith because Jesus constantly works to bring to faith, in Him, all those who are without faith.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.