

**“JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD ([Acts 2:22](#))”**

**Miracle #33 – “MAN WITH DROPSY ON SABBATH”[Luke 14:2-5,6](#)**

### THE TEXT

*“And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have **an ass or an ox fallen into a pit**, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things.” ([Luke 14:1-4,5-6](#))*

As with the bowed woman (Miracle #31), Christ heals this man on the sabbath about which the Pharisees seek to trap Christ, accusing him of working on the sabbath.

**Dropsy** aka **edema** is a physical condition of a body that retains too much water ...that is ... too many **water drops**-y. The person becomes **waterlogged**.

### Causes and effects of physical dropsy (edema)

1. Not enough exercise ... more likely to show up in the legs and feet.
2. Sitting or staying in one position for too long
3. Eating too much salty food.
4. The inability to get rid of water
5. Heart failure, liver damage, kidney disease, blood pooling in legs and arms, DVT and blood clots in legs

Indeed, many churches can become waterlogged too. As I viewed the above, I thought about churches that have **spiritual dropsy**.

### Causes of spiritual dropsy ... why churches get waterlogged and sieze up

- 1. Not enough spiritual exercise** ... more likely to show up in the legs and feet.

This is not enough 'leg work' ... that is ... tract distribution, footpath preaching, personal witnessing in shopping malls and so on.

## 2. Sitting or staying in one position for too long

This is too much sitting around in a church with no outward focus on the lost.

## 3. Eating too much salty food

Church goers are forever training ... that is ... seminars on witnessing, Bible courses with no practical outlet, visiting speakers, endless doctrine lessons ... for example ... the writer attended a church that gave the congregation a 16 week college based course on what salvation is ... for 16 Sundays in a row!

**4. The inability to get rid of spiritual water** ... that is ... drinking in too much water of the word but not doing anything to get rid of it ... to share it with the unsaved.

**5. A Pastor or elders who will not street preach.** Anyone who does is a threat. Their reply "I haven't been called to Street Preach!"

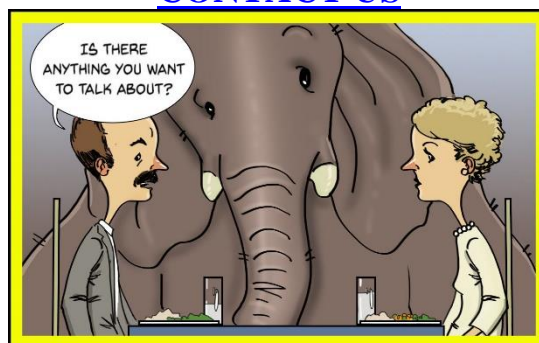
**6. Church membership creates laziness** ... an inner sanctum of people who simply talk to each other on Sunday mornings.

**7. Tithing promotes a level of comfort** ... "We pay a Pastor ... our job is done"

... and the list goes on.

**Harley Hitchcock**  
**May 2023**

**"CONTACT US"**



Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia  
[www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com](http://www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com)