

“House of Mercy” • John 5:1–18

Mt. Lassen Community Church • February 1, 2026

RECENT REVIEW—

John 2 • Water to Wine → Jesus is Lord over TIME and NATURE

John 4 • Woman at the Well → Jesus knew everything about her.

He is GOD OMNISCIENT

John 4 • Official’s Son → Jesus heals at a distance.

He is OMNIPRESENT GOD

John 6 → Jesus is the Bread of Life (*please listen to the 1/29 lesson!*)

TODAY— Jesus heals the man lame 38 years, on the Sabbath.

John 5:1–3a • History of the Pools of Bethesda—from sheep washing pools in Solomon’s day → to Roman bathing pools dedicated to the goddess Fortuna → to a place of superstitious healings

Vs 3b–5 • This scriptural footnote explains why the lame man is there. They believe an angel stirs up the waters, and the first one in is healed.

Discuss • Does this explain what God actually does, or what they believed God was doing? Does this line up with God’s character? (Either way—the fact is, this man received no healing there!)

→ He has found no MERCY in the HOUSE OF MERCY—for 38 long years!

Vs 5:6–9a • Without any fuss, Jesus heals the man. As he obeys Jesus and stands, he discovers he has been healed.

Big lesson → YOU JUST NEED JESUS. There are plenty of PLACES, PEOPLE, or SYSTEMS that offer power, filling, healing, etc—but these are truly found in Christ alone! → The most tangible dwelling of God on earth today is: THE CHURCH (**Acts 2:42–47**)

Discuss • When does Church truly bring us into the presence of God?

Disclaimer: There are wonderful places to go on retreat, and recharge with God. But let’s not think there are places that are imbued with special spiritual “essence”—**God is fully available to us everywhere!**

→ But what about PEOPLE or SYSTEMS that are like a Bet-Hesda? = Scripture declares—all we NEED is found in Christ Jesus:

2 Peter 1:2–3 / Ephesians 3:20–21 / John 1:16–17 & Colossians 2:9–10

Let’s never think our spiritual life depends on a priest, or an apostle, or a celebrity, or a huge ministry _____

Vs 9b–14 • Jesus doesn’t say he was lame *because* of his sin, but rather, “go and sin no more”—so that nothing *worse* might happen. There are always consequences for sin, but this man has suffered enough!

Vs 15–16 • Because Jesus heals on the Sabbath, the Jews attack. BUT→

(1) Jesus is demonstrating He is the “Lord of the Sabbath” _____

(2) The Sabbath is the best day to heal someone: _____

(3) There was no “rest” in the religion of the Pharisees. They, too, were a “Bet–Hesda”: _____

Vs 17–18 • More conflict: Jesus says He is doing the work of the Father. The Jews know what He is claiming: TO BE GOD (*Study from Thurs. 1/22*)

Discuss • Listen to the Thurs. 1/22 study and share what you learn!