

- I) V1-4 INTRO: After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem
This is an unnamed feast: As an observant Jew, Jesus determines to go, alone
- II) Under the Mosaic covenant, Jewish males were required to attend mandatory feasts
Dt 16:16 Three times a year *all your males* shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.
- III) This chapter records Jesus healing a crippled man in the city of Jerusalem
This healing is the *third miracle* recorded in John's gospel
He had already made water into wine, and had recently healed a nobleman's son
- IV) John did not record all of the miracles Jesus performed
Later he would write there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written (Jn 21:25)
- V) Why would this miracle be included in those selected for the gospel?
- VI) ANSWER: The healing of *the crippled* was associated with the work of Messiah
Is 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall *the lame man leap* as a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
- VII) After the healing of the nobleman's son, Jesus goes to Jerusalem
- VIII) V2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the *Sheep Gate* a pool, which is called in Hebrew
This is the gate sheep were brought to be offered in sacrifice in the temple
Bethesda: House of Mercy: It got this name from the healing Jesus performed there
- IX) V3-4 In these lay a *great multitude* of sick people, *blind, lame, paralyzed* waiting for the
- X) Some commentators see their physical condition as a picture of their spiritual condition
SICK: Diseased, weak; without strength (being weakened by sin and need Jesus)
Ro 5:6 For when we were yet *without strength*, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- XI) *BLIND*: Incapable of discerning truth from error, spiritually blind
This is the condition of all humanity without being enlightened by the Spirit
2 Co 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The *god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers*, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- I) **LAME:** Incapable of going where they would like to go
It can be used of a person that is hesitant to move, or unable to walk by themselves
Eph 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind
- II) **Without Jesus,** they will never be able to walk (live) in a way that He is pleased with
Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
- III) **PARALYZED:** Without faith, hope, love, or the fear of God, they are lifeless and hopeless
God gives them an ability to have life when they turn to Him and their sins are forgiven
- IV) **KEY:** John is not authorizing the stirring of the water by an angel as genuine
It is explaining what they believed, and what they did in response to their belief
- V) **NOTICE:** It seems the people thought that the fastest mover would receive healing
- VI) **EVEN TODAY:** People believe a variety of things will result in healing
Some believe that if they drink or bathe in water from Lourdes, they will be healed
Some wear scapulars, or send money to radio/television evangelists for prayer cloths
Some will buy olive oil or water, believing it has healing power
- VII) **This gives us insight into how the Lord works *in spite of our misunderstanding Him***
It shows how God's mercy is manifested, revealing to us something of what God is like
Ps 6:2 Have *mercy* on me O Lord, for I am weak O Lord *heal* me for my bones are troubled
- VIII) **AS WE BEGIN:** We must remember that throughout the Bible, God performs healings
INTERESTINGLY: They occur in a variety of ways
This is so that we will not put God in a box by developing methods of receiving healing
- IX) **FIRST:** Sometimes they occur in response to someone's personal faith in Jesus
Mt 9:20-22 speaks of The woman with the issue of blood for 12 years
She said: if I touch His garment, I will be healed and Jesus commended her faith
- X) **SECOND:** They can occur in response to *somebody else's faith*
We just saw that in the case of the Nobleman's son--Jn 4:46-53
- XI) **THIRD:** Sometimes no expression of faith is evident:
Mk 2 The man brought to Jesus did not evidence personal faith
This passage reveals that healing is determined by God, not by man

- I) V5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years
- II) Perhaps he wanted us to remember Israel's wandering in the wilderness
Dt 2:14 The time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was *thirty-eight years*, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them.
His paralysis could symbolize Israel: Spiritually paralyzed without Jesus
- III) V6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and *knew* that he already had been in that condition
Jesus saw and Jesus *knew*: In spite of the multitude, His eyes were on one man
Is 65:24 It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.
Even in a noisy crowd, John makes it clear that Jesus is aware of you
- IV) V6 He said to him *Do you want to be made well?*
- V) IMPORTANT: Questions have a way of revealing the motives of the heart
Jesus provokes him to *ask himself* whether he really desires to be healed
- VI) He had faith to be healed according to the superstition of his day
He needed to put faith in the One who could heal him
If within us there is an inclination *to remain as we are*, often no changes are made
- VII) V7 The sick man answered Him Sir I have no man to put me into the pool when the water I cannot help my self, and I have no friends who will help me
This puts him in the place where the Lord can reveal Himself to him
- VIII) V8 Jesus said to him *Rise, take up your bed and walk*
He did not know Jesus and expected healing in another way yet he is instantly healed
- IX) Jesus gave him an impossible command! He does this more than once!
The man with a crippled hand in the synagogue, in front of the scribes and Pharisees:
Lu 6:10 When He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.
- X) THIS HAPPENED: With the Apostle Peter, when he walked on water
Mt 14:28-29 Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he *walked on the water* to go to Jesus.
- XI) V9 And Immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

- I) Why did Jesus command this man to carry his bed on the Sabbath
The law prohibited all work, and especially the carrying of burdens?
He was a poor man, and if he had left his bed he might have lost it
- II) V9 And that day was the Sabbath
This work provokes the first signs of hostility towards Jesus
- III) V10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful
- IV) In Israel the Sabbath begins at dusk on Friday and ends at dusk on Saturday (Lev 23:32)
It is intended for the Jewish people to rest and worship God (Ex 20:9-11, Ezek 46:3)
Ex 31:16 Therefore *the children of Israel* shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as a perpetual covenant*.
- V) Christians have kept the *first day* of the week because it is the day Jesus resurrected
Worshiping on Sunday is not something that is a *hard fast rule*
Ro 14:5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike.
Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.
- VI) Because this healing occurred on the Sabbath, the religious authorities were up in arms
They believed that *both* Jesus and this man had violated the Law of Moses
- VII) *FIRST*: They said Jesus violated the Sabbath because they taught that *healing was work*
Lu 13 Jesus healed a crippled woman and was rebuked for doing so
Lu 13:14 The ruler of the synagogue said There are six days *on which men ought to work*; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.
- VIII) *SECOND*: They believed the man had violated the Sabbath, *because he carried his mat*
Jer 17:21-22 Thus says the LORD: "Take heed to yourselves, and *bear no burden* on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; *nor carry a burden* out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.
It is a day dedicated to God, and is not to be filled with pursuing the things of the world
- IX) V10 The Jews said to the man It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your bed
SADLY: They conformed to the letter of the Law and not its spirit
- X) V11 He answered them He *who made me well* said to me Take up your bed and walk
He is still blaming others: The one who made me well is the one you should deal with!
He had no observable gratitude and distanced himself from Jesus

- I) V12-13 They asked him Who is *the Man* who said to you Take up your bed and walk?
Who is *the Man* is intended to contrast Jesus (a man) with God's Law (divine)
He did not know His name, and he did not see Jesus anywhere in the crowd
- II) V13 Jesus had left, and the crowd in the area was more than likely getting agitated
They would be reacting to the miracle they had just witnessed
He withdrew Himself because He had not finished his work and would not expose himself to the envy and malice of the Jewish rulers.
- III) V14 Afterward *Jesus found him* in the temple and said to him See, you have been made
After things have died down *Jesus once again finds the man* and speaks to him
He is no longer at the pool of Bethesda but is now in the Temple
- IV) He had been healed and was now able to enter the temple on his own power
It may be that he went to give thanks to God for touching him and healing him
- V) V14 Jesus says See you have been made well. Sin no more, *lest a worse thing* come upon
- VI) There are those who say that Jesus did not specifically call people sinners
In ch 8 He will say to a woman I do not condemn you. God, and sin no more
Here, He says the same words to the man
- VII) Some commentators say that sins of his youth may have resulted in his paralysis
The same could be said of the man on the mat in Mk 2
Jesus would know what caused his infirmity, and warns him not to repeat it
- VIII) When you have been cleansed by the Lord, it is best not to return to the old life
Returning to the sin has a way of hardening you to the grace of God
- IX) What is worse then being crippled? *Eternal judgment*
Mt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- X) V15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well
It may be that he did this to secure himself from the charge of sabbath breaking
- XI) Also, it may be that he saw this miracle as validating Jesus as one *sent from God*
QUOTE: It is probable that he went in the simplicity of his heart, desirous both to publish what Christ had done to his honor, and also to do good to others, who might also stand in need of his help.