

John's Gospel @ CF!
John 5:15-29 (?)
Sermon notes – BK
June 30, 2024

John 5:1-17

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

John 5:1

- ¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.**
- This **feast was not named**. **Not important** to the details apparently.
 - This does indicate that **there were more people in Jerusalem** than at other times – **clearly intentional by Jesus**.
 - **“After this”** simply indicates this was sometime later...
 - o **No date-stamp** given
 - o **Not important** to John, or to this story
 - o Likely **not in sequence** to chapter 4

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

- Likely noted in your Bible, that most of the **earliest and most reliable manuscripts did not have these verses** in there.
- **Not central to the story, so this is more of a sidenote**
- The verses included in the KJV, NKJV, etc. say, **“waiting for the moving of the water; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.”**

- **Not going to get into this very much**, but for the curious,
 - **the KJV-only people say these versions are “taking away from the Bible”**
 - Others say, **“it’s not in the earliest, most reliable docs, so no we are not.”**
- Again, **not central to the message**, but it can also can be a sticking point for some.
- Is the **“angel of the Lord stirring the waters”** possible?
 - **Yes.** Is it maybe more of a local legend?
 - **Maybe more this than just “leaving things out...”**
- **One commentator (Weirsbe) points out** that it would **not make sense** for these people to be by this pool – **this man for 38 years – without something special about it.**
 - While it **may not be in the earliest manuscripts**, it would **make sense that this would be at least a “folklore”**
 - Likely **there could have been some healing, mineral properties...**

THAT SAID...

**The truth is – God did – does and will heal –
With or without the help of “an angel of the Lord.”**

Ironically, **Bethesda** means, **“house of mercy” or “house of grace...”**

**And... here, we have Jesus Himself –
No angel needed!**

I believe John records Jesus here, showing us again the amazing display of God working on our behalf.

John repeatedly points out the work of God through Jesus.

- **God initiated**
- **God empowered**
- **God completed**

We see much the same thing here.

- **John notes this place is by the “Sheep gate.”**
 - **Could be the same gate of Nehemiah’s time.**
 - A gate **where the sheep/sacrifice was brought in**
 - It was also an area **where those who were outcast would go.**
 - In later times it was called **“Herod’s gate”**
- **The picture here is:**
 - A place of **great need.**
 - A place of **desperation.**
 - A place filled with **people the community cannot help**
- **This is where you find Jesus.**

- Where He is **needed most**
- Where an all-powerful God does what *others try to accomplish on their own.*

Let's read on...

John 5:5-9

⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

This man could not get to the waters.

- Jesus IS the living water

The man could not do this on his own

- Jesus *does it without any effort* on the man's part at all

Do you find it a bit odd that Jesus would asked, "*Do you want to be healed?*"

Why do you think Jesus asks this?

Do you know people who are sick so long, their ailment becomes their identity?

- This *could be part of it* with this man

Do you know people that feel like God has left them and the only way they can get better is if they do it on their own?

- This *could be part of it* for this man

Do you know some that if they were healed, they would have no idea what to do with their life?

- Maybe feeling ill-equipped to work
- Maybe have been so adjusted to being "broken" they have lost the comprehension of how to live whole?
- This *could be part of it* for this man

This helps it make more sense why Jesus would ask, "*Do you want to be healed?*"

Jesus may have asked this question...

The truth is, this man seems to be without hope...

- Notice THIS healing was all Jesus
 - The man shows no sign of faith
 - The man did not ask Jesus to be healed
 - The man just points out the problem
- There was no formula

- There was no “pressing in” for the lame man to “find his healing...”
 - Jesus – Just – Did – it
 - Jesus healed this man anyway

Jesus tells this man, *“Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”*

To this man’s credit, he does just what Jesus says, without hesitation.

An amazing miracle for sure!

So what we see here –

- Jesus finds a man that desperately needs Him
- Jesus does what human effort (trying to get to the water) could not
- Jesus heals a man that didn’t even ask

As you might expect, John unpacks more of the layers of this...

John 5:9b

Now that day was the Sabbath.

This was not an accident of Jesus - for sure.

John 5:10-17

¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’”

Notice the line of questioning.

These religious leaders would rather have **the lame stay lame** than a healing on the Sabbath...

It is also **interesting** to me – as **one commentator pointed out...**

Carrying a bed (actually a sleeping-mat or a bedroll) was in fact a violation of the rabbis’ interpretation of the commandment against doing work or business on the Sabbath. It was not a breaking of God’s law of the Sabbath, but the human interpretation of God’s law.

ALL of this is baffling to me....

Did the religious leaders NOT HEAR this man?

“The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’”

The man who HEALED me!

All they could see is the violation, NOT the healing.

THIS is **religion** – straight up.

- They wanted to **remain in control**
- Their **rules gave them control**

Thankfully, this is NOT Jesus –

Aren't you **grateful** for that?!

(There will be more opportunity to talk about Jesus violating the Sabbath as we go on – running out of time.)

At this point, the man who was healed **could not even answer** the question the leaders as...

John 5:13-16

¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

Jesus healed the man –

Then he left (literally “to dodge”) the area...

He knew what was coming!

Jesus found the man healed...

- **He rejoices** with the man
 - o It is like **Jesus is reminding him, your HEALED...** this is a **GOOD** thing!

“See, you are well!

This word for “**well**” is a healing that was **done**.

“Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

There is **no way of knowing** exactly what Jesus meant.

I am sure **the man who was healed did**.

- **Could it be** that his lame condition came as a result of something sinful he did?

- **Could it be** that there was a greater restoration for this man than physical?

Could it be that this healing represented some sort of spiritual healing as well?

- **I believe so.**
- You can hear Jesus saying, “I healed your body. You are healed inside-out...”

Now, don't be stupid and go do that again!

My words!

Is this situation not like our own culture today?

- We wait **BY** the pool named grace/mercy
- We wait **for something** “amazing” to happen
- We think the miracle is all **dependent** on us
- We **miss** the very one who is the answer

I believe Jesus is still **calling us out** and **bringing us up**.

- I pray we also “take up our mat” – without care and without concern of offending anyone.
- I pray we hear His call to us to live a life that is holy – set apart for Him and His glory. (“sin no more...”)

How is there hope this can EVEN be true?

Because of the Cross...

What does the man do?

¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

I am not convinced this guy just went to “snitch on Jesus”

- It’s not like this guy knew all the dynamics of what was going on – **He didn’t even know who it was that healed him!**
- The man healed was just answering the question asked of him
 - o It may have been he thought **he was giving a good report...**
 - o **Maybe they would see the power of God too!**

Of course, we know “the Jews” were not seeing the miracle –

- They wanted to **stop** Jesus
- They **opposed** Him

But Jesus didn’t stop...

He was there when the Sabbath laws were written.

Jesus makes a statement that we will get into more next week...

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

What did Jesus mean here

