

WORKING ON THE SABBATH

JOHN 5:1–23



THEME

Jesus reveals that mercy is greater than religious tradition. He demonstrates His divine authority, His compassion for the broken, and His equality with the Father.

1

JOHN
5:1–4

THE POOL OF BETHESDA

- Many people gathered at Bethesda hoping for healing.
- Jesus honored God's Law perfectly, yet He also showed that keeping God's Law never meant neglecting mercy.

Application: *Our hope should never be placed in traditions, places, or rituals, but in Jesus Christ.*



2

JOHN
5:5

JESUS KNOWS YOU PERSONALLY

- The man had suffered for thirty-eight years, yet Jesus knew exactly who he was.

Application: *Even when others overlook us, Jesus knows our name, our pain, and our circumstances.*



3

JOHN
5:6–7

DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL?

- Jesus first saw the man before speaking to him.
- Rather than simply answering Jesus' question, the man offered excuses.

Application: *Jesus often asks us to trust Him instead of focusing on our limitations.*



4

JOHN
5:8–9

FAITH REQUIRES OBEDIENCE

- Jesus gave three commands: Get up. Pick up your mat. Walk.
- The man obeyed immediately and was healed.

Application: *God's power is often experienced when we respond in faith.*



5

JOHN
5:10–13

RELIGION VS. MERCY

- The religious leaders cared more about Sabbath traditions than the miracle that had just taken place.
- The healed man chose to obey Jesus rather than religious expectations.

Application: *True Christianity changes lives—not merely outward behavior.*



"My Father is always at His work to this very day,
and I too am working."

JOHN 5:17



6

JOHN
5:14–16

A GREATER HEALING

- Jesus later found the man in the Temple.
- Sin carries consequences, although sickness is not always caused by personal sin.
- This man was now able to go into the Temple.

Application: *Jesus desires both physical restoration and spiritual transformation.*



7

JOHN
5:17–18

JESUS IS EQUAL WITH THE FATHER

- Jesus declared, “My Father is always at His work.”
- The Jewish leaders understood exactly what He was claiming—that He is equal with God.



8

JOHN
5:19–21

PERFECT UNITY

- The Son does only what He sees the Father doing.
- Everything Jesus did reflected the Father’s heart.
- Even greater miracles—including raising the dead—would soon reveal His glory.



9

JOHN
5:22–23

HONOR THE SON

- To reject Jesus is to reject the Father.
- The Father has entrusted judgment to the Son so that all people would honor Him.



SCRIPTURE CONFIRMS JESUS IS GOD

✦ JOHN 10:30–33 He claimed unity with the Father.

✦ JOHN 20:29 Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God!”

✦ PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8 He existed in the form of God.

✦ 1 JOHN 5:7 The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit are one.

✦ GENESIS 1:26 God said, “Let Us make man in Our image.”

✦ JOHN 1:1–3 The Word was God.

MAIN LESSONS

- ✓ Mercy is greater than empty religion.
- ✓ Jesus knows your name and your need.
- ✓ Faith responds with obedience.
- ✓ Religion cannot save; Jesus can.
- ✓ Jesus is fully God.
- ✓ God is still working today.

REVIEW & APPLICATION

1. FILL IN THE BLANK

Jesus asked the man,

“Do you want to be made _____?”

2. FILL IN THE BLANK

Jesus told the healed man,

“Get up, pick up your _____, and walk.”

3. CHALLENGE QUESTION

The religious leaders were more concerned with protecting traditions than celebrating a changed life.

How can we guard against allowing routine, tradition, or personal preferences to keep us from showing the mercy and compassion of Jesus to others?

Jesus was changing lives. The leaders were playing religion.

No matter how much religious activity you are engaged in, if you're not in the business of changing lives, then you're not in the business of Jesus.

— Evan

