

John 5:1-17 – 29 March 2026

“You’re The One”

Introduction

*We’ve finished now Jesus’ 1st year of ministry

*He’s been collecting disciples and followers

*He’s done a few miracles and some healings

*John 5 is the only chapter of the book detailing the 2nd year – the year of Jesus’ popularity

*Today we look at the account of Jesus healing the lame man at the pool of Bethesda

*This is such a great demonstration of the importance of the one – the individual

*To know God is to come into a personal one-on-one relationship between you & the Maker of all things

Today, we look at 3 layers of this relationship that show the importance of the one

#1 – One person: Jesus seeks for one person (Vs 1-6)

Read 5:1

1. “After this” makes it known that time has passed since the events of John 4 in Galilee
2. Which of 3 feasts this occurs during is unclear

Read 5:2

1. “Sheep Gate” – Since the days this 2nd temple was built in Neh 3, this is the gate north of the city
 - a. Since 16th century when it was rebuilt, it’s known as the Lion’s Gate or Stephen’s Gate
2. “Bethesda” means *House of Mercy*
3. “Five Porches” – these are covered walkways
4. How can you have 5 porches on a 4-sided pool
 - a. 19th century digging revealed a dividing wall
 - b. A porch on each side & 1 down the middle

Read 5:3-4

1. There is nothing else Biblical to support or replicate this type of established process
 - a. Clearly something happened at least once & they continued coming to the pool for it again

- b. Most believed that the ‘certain season’ was around the feast days – as it is now
2. There is power in putting your faith in God
 - a. Many limit themselves to a certain timing or point of faith in order to activate their faith
 - b. For example, the women that touched hem of Jesus’ garment – “oh if I could just touch it”
3. There is certainly other example in the Bible in which God heals in diverse ways
 - a. Including by dipping in water like Naaman
4. **Many** people are gathered around this pool

Read 5:5-6

1. This man longed for many years to be healed
2. With many people at the pool, Jesus will approach just this **one**
 - a. What’s not spoken is that Jesus walked up to him individually and looked him in the eye
 - b. Today will be **his** opportunity
3. There are only so many times in which Jesus approaches us – take the opportunity

4. “Do you want this”
 - a. In certain stages of grief, you accept that a past trauma can no longer even be healed
 - b. Some continue their practices out of routine no longer b/c they actually believe in change
 - c. Exp: Some come to hear Christian speakers saying they want to learn, but when offered a book they often refuse
 - d. Some suffer under poor finances b/c of unbiblical decisions – do you want to be whole?
 - e. Some suffer under poor family relations b/c of unbiblical decisions—do you want to be whole?
5. Surrounded by many people now – God is asking you the individual – do you want to be whole?
 - a. Deliverance and change can only happen one life at a time
 - b. We must allow God to work in *our* life – no one else can make the decisions & effort for us
6. Concluding point – Turn to Luke 15:1-11
 - a. Jesus came for the *one*, He put in the effort for the *one* and offered grace to the *one*
 - b. There is joy when each *one* is restored

#2 – One way: Never mind the work of God in others (Vs 7-10)

Read 5:7

1. Our relationship with God is *not* dependent on anyone else
 - a. Our status of spiritual wholeness is *not* dependent on what other people do
 - b. Place your faith in God who can change all, not in our methods of just how He should do it
2. Can God meet your need by a method that you don't expect Him to – yes
3. Our eyes & hearts need to be set on what God's asking *us* to believe & do, not on someone else
4. In John 21 – Jesus just finished telling Peter what to do and how to live *for Him* when Peter asked Jesus a question (Read John 21:20-23)
 - a. Whether it goes good or bad in another's life doesn't affect the call of Jesus in our life

Read 5:8-9a

1. Let go of the distraction of other people & just look at what Jesus is asking of you

2. Then walk into it by faith – believe Him

Read 5:9b-10

1. Not only *before* God's work in his life, but even afterward, he has to ignore (never mind) what others are doing in their relationship with God
2. These Jews had developed traditions *of their own* that weren't from God regarding the Sabbath
 - a. Turn to Mark 2:23-28 – God made the Sabbath as a provision to man, not a prevention
 - b. They followed their added rules, not God's
3. Never mind the opinions & religious traditions of other men – we follow God and His Word

#3 – One Lord: Exalt Jesus above tradition (Vs 11-17)

Read 5:11-13

1. To the believer, Jesus is the fixer; to the unbeliever, Jesus is the breaker
2. Regardless of what others think of Him, we exalt Jesus
 - a. *We know* what He's done for us

b. *We tell others* what He's done for us

Read 5:14-15

1. Jesus isn't saying his lameness was b/c of sin
 - a. It's that sin (which is a spiritual condition) brings worse things on a man than physical ills
2. Often physical ills are b/c of sin, but not always
 - a. Mariam & Uzziah were struck with leprosy b/c of their own sin
 - b. But the blind man of John 9 hadn't sinned at all (Read John 9:2-3)
3. Notice, the healed man isn't hiding anything
 - a. When he learns it was Jesus, he now has more to proclaim about Jesus
 - b. Even knowing the men in authority disagree with him, he exalts Jesus and tells the world

Read 5:16-17

1. Jesus doesn't shrink back or make excuse, but boldly proclaims He worked on the Sabbath Day
 - a. He's working the works of His Father and doesn't consider the religious rules of men

2. Read Matt 15:1-3, 7-9
 - a. Do we have a passion to pursue *our own* form of Christianity or do we passionately *exalt the authentic Christ Jesus?*
3. *Jesus* has power to heal, not my potions or ways
4. *Jesus* has power to raise the dead, not my rules and methods
5. *Jesus* has power to keep us for all eternity, not my traditions and religion
6. We exalt *Jesus*

Conclusion

So in a sense...

1. **You're the one** – If you were the only person on planet earth, Jesus still would have died to set you free
2. **There's only one way** – Never mind what others are doing – we follow God's Word
3. **Ultimately, Jesus is the One** – We exalt Jesus!