Vision 2026: Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of John, chapter Five.

John is in the New Testament, which is the second part of your Bible. The first part is called the Old Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

Wilt thou be Made Whole

John 5:1-6

John 5:1 *After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

NKJV

A. Jesus, moved with Compassion

a. The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark & Luke records eight times that He saw the crowd, was moved with compassion & then performed miracles.

i. Hebrews teaches about the compassionate Eternal High Priest, Jesus.

ii. Throughout the Psalms, the Prophets & the New Testament Jesus is defined as a Passionate King, Priest & Saviour.

b. *Jesus Christ, the same…* **He has not changed.**

The same Jesus who was moved with compassion is still compassionate toward you—toward every need, every burden, & every concern you face today.

B. In our text, Jesus is at the Pool of Bethesda

a. John says in verse 3 at this pool, "*lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, **waiting** for the moving of the water.*"

i. The Great Physician walked into their midst, but they were so focused on the possibility of the stirring of the water they didn't see Jesus.

ii. There is no indication how or why this one man was chosen. Jesus often healed multitudes of people in the crowd. But Jesus spoke to him & he responded.

b. Today, we see many of the same people in the church symbolically as the blind, lame & paralyzed.

i. *Blind*: Spiritual blindness — unable to see God, truth, the light of the gospel, or one's own sin (John 9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:18).

ii. *Lame*: Unable to walk rightly in God's ways — spiritual limping, double-minded, stuck, or weak in the walk of faith (Isaiah 35:6; Hebrews 12:13).

iii. *Withered*: Spiritual dryness & barrenness — no life, no fruit, no flow of the Spirit; deteriorated, diminished, & dead (cf. dry land, withered hand, barrenness imagery).

Scripture (*BIBLE*)

Remember the application:

I. Respond to the Command, not the Feeling

Jesus offered to this man more than just a physical healing. He offered completeness, wholeness & soundness. We will focus on what Jesus offers beyond what is physical & seen.

Today, Child of God, hear & receive as this man did – not only healing for your body, but completeness, wholeness & soundness of body & soul.

A. Shalom

a. There are at least five Greek words that are used in the NT translated "*healed*." Jesus chose one that has a deeper meaning than just a physical healing.

It describes a person as free from defect, disease, or impairment—intact & functioning properly.

It would be translated into the Hebrew as "Shalom." A covenant of Peace – complete

i. Shalom: {ש} As fire transforms, consuming what is incomplete, & {ל} gives direction to even the {ם} hidden mysteries of God bringing completeness.

ii. Shalom is not merely the absence of conflict; it is mental & emotional perfection. – ***Isaiah 26:3*** *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.* NKJV –

iii. Shalom is the biblical picture of complete well-being in the inner life (mind and emotions) is sound, secure, & at rest—especially when anchored in relationship with God.

b. The literal translation is more like, “Are you convinced that you are already made whole?”

i. This man had been sick for 38 years. As long as Israel wandered in the wilderness & had been sick nearly eight years before Jesus was born in the manger.

ii. He had been in this environment for 38 years. {In the beginning – hope – but faded over the decades} His response to Jesus tells us what he thought: ***John 5:7*** *“Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”*

B. POINT

a. Statistics tell us that 34% of families born in poverty live as adults in poverty & are passed on to their children. {We know a family that had four generations of poverty mentality because that was the only example they had.}

b. Children raised in homes affected by alcoholism are six times as likely to develop alcoholism as children raised in homes without it.

c. What are you saying? – "The man Jesus spoke with, knew that he was not one of the favored, & had no real hope to be healed." -David Guzik –

i. His environment greatly affected his faith & trust that his life could ever change.

ii. 38 years of infirmity & loss of hope he had struggled with disappointment, discouragement, despondency & depression.

iii. Besides these mental struggles, he was familiar with his situation, his circumstances & his surroundings.
– Comfortable – Complacent

d. Some may not like what I'm about to say, but it's still true.

There are many in the Church Body who struggle with, maybe raised in a similar home of mental & emotional difficulties. A home where sin was rampant. You feel like the man at the Pool of Bethesda & find it hard to trust hope. aac

You accept physical, mental & emotional upheavals. You love God. You've been born again, but that "Thing" plagues your soul, your mind, your heart & emotions. aac

He saw others healed when the water was stirred. He saw the lives of others changed & transformed but had determined though there "is" healing in the stirring of the waters, it's not going to happen for me.

C. POINT

a. Jesus looked beyond the paralyzed limbs, the lame feet & blind eyes. He knew the wounds were deeper than the flesh revealed.

Jesus was interested in more than just healing the physical man, He wanted him complete, sound & whole.

I reached out to a friend who attended here years ago & asked for the phrase she prayed over the sick. I want to encourage you to adopt this: Pray over yourself or with someone, "Healed & Whole, Nothing Missing & Nothing Broken." She added now… "Nothing worn out."

b. ***John 5:8*** *Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."*

i. Jesus did not wait for the man to feel strong. He spoke the word, & the power was in the word. Jesus still speaks the word of authority first: "*Rise*."

ii. The mat had defined his life—it was the place of helplessness. Now he carries it. —Fear, depression, anxiety, trauma, shame) that once controlled you becomes your testimony once Jesus brings wholeness.

iii. He does not stay in the place of his old condition. He leaves the cycle of waiting, hoping, & remaining stuck.

c. Obedience to His word releases the power that was already present in His command. The one who obeys does not remain defined by the past; they walk away free.

d. The concept of healing in the Scripture is more than physical repair. They point to Shalom—completeness, soundness of mind, soul & body.

II. Conclusion

A. Let me close with this verse. After Jesus gave the command to "*Rise*", ***John 5:9*** *And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked…*

B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **He asks us to**:
  - *Repent*
  - *Live by Faith*
  - *Be Baptized*
  - *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.