

“Like Father, Like Son” – John 5, Part 1

Please stand after you have opened your bibles to John 5:1-9

We now begin a series of events in Jesus’s ministry that John records for us for context as it relates to the theme of this book...

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Again, this is why he wrote this gospel and the stories, including the one we will start today were written for this cause. We are told here that this was a feast of the Jews. We do not know which one and any commentator that tells you otherwise is mistaken. But it would be one of three; Passover, Pentecost or Tabernacles.

We read in verse two the location of this miracle and it is by the Sheep Gate in Bethesda, which means “House of Mercy”. This pool has been discovered and can be visited... (Show two pics). As you can see the steps going down into the pool.

You need to understand that the book you hold in your hands is a record of proven history. Every time someone goes somewhere with a shovel to disprove the Bible, they land up eating crow. Many, and I mean many, have come to faith after their discoveries. If you are honest and you research the Bible and the claims of Christ you have no choice but to either believe and receive its message or reject it knowing full well what you are doing. The Bible stands alone as the undefeated champion of world history! A matter-of-fact Archeology does not prove the Bible; the Bible proves Archeology!

Now we are told something here that is removed from many modern translations. From the middle of verse 3 and all of verse 4 might not be in your Bible but reserved as a footnote in the margin. This is what we call “Textual Criticism”. There are those that think the earliest manuscripts are better, and others take what we call the “Majority Text” approach. See we do not have any original copies of John. We do have a small fragment of John from the first century but no original copies. The versions they say are better are only two full Bibles from the 4th and 5th century. One is from the school of Alexandria in Egypt, and the other was found in the library at Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. Both have Gnostic ties and should be looked at with some suspect. The Majority of all others of

the 20,000 Manuscripts of antiquity include this and this is why it is in the King James and New King James text.

But the reason I believe it was there is because it explains why all these sick people are there. People want to criticize because of the supernatural content of an Angel and water healing someone but forget that that is exactly what Jesus does. Not only that but the Romans understood that this pool was associated with healing as after the dispersion of the Jews in 70 AD they turned this pool into a temple of Asclepius in the second century.

But the lesson here is that this was a place where people believed they could be healed. But it was limited to only those that would be the first one in. That means those that were too slow would never make it in. This is the condition of this man. The Bible tells us he has been this way for 38 years. The first thing I would like to point out is in this big crowd of people, all needing something, Jesus picks out this one man. Have you noticed that through the book of John so far? When Nicodemus came to Him alone Jesus personalized it...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

He then went out of His way to reach one Samaritan Women. He is now reaching out in a sea of other sick people to help this one man. Do you know what length Jesus has gone to reach you? But there is even a deeper lesson here than just healing...

John 5:6-7

When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered Him, "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."

Jesus asks him a yes or no question. How does he answer? Now granted he does not know who this is, yet, but still instead of looking to what is possible he focused on the problem. Let me tell you this sums up every counseling appointment I have. "Are you trusting in God?", I say. "Well yes, but...". "How's your walk? Are you praying? Are you reading the word?", I ask. "I would, but..." Look at all the excuses I can derive from this:

“I have no one to help me”

“I just can’t do it”

“I tried, but it didn’t work”

“Everybody else but me!”

“Nobody Cares”

“I am too disabled”

Look, I could keep going, but you get the picture. I will take the time to listen to your story. I love you enough to know your problems are real. I would never dismiss them. But the answer is always the same. Jesus can and will help you. How? By faith!

John 5:8-9a

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

Jesus does not console him in his plight. He does not offer him a pity party. He tells him to rise up and walk. Jesus is telling you today to rise up and walk. Did you know the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you?

Romans 5:4-7

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the

Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

You can either believe this or not. It is a yes or no answer. We can say “But” all day long but Jesus offers you everything you need to walk with Him. You just need to rise up and walk.

But that is not the focus of this story did you know that? John is using it to bring us to a very important discourse that we will finish next time. Notice the rest of verse 9...

John 5:9b

And that day was the Sabbath.

And all the legalists’ groans! Did you know a religious person is always going to be skeptical of the supernatural work God is doing in your life. God said it, I believed it and that’s how it happened! No, surely, you had help from a priest or a psychologist! Nope, Jesus said I was healed and that’s that! It can’t be that easy! Let’s now look at the interaction with the Pharisees.

The Man, The Pharisees and Jesus

John 5:10-15

One of the problems that had found its way into the early Church in John's day was legalism. There were the Judaizers that taught that the gentiles had to live under the law and some of the Gnostics that taught that unless you are holy you can't know God. All legalists are the same. They care more about obedience than what God can do. I feel sorry for these churches that dismiss the miraculous gifts of the Spirit given to the church as only for the first century. Instead of Jesus giving us the power to rise up and walk by His grace, we must show our loyalty by firm obedience. What happens? When people come to ask us for help, instead of encouraging them to trust God, we give them a list of dos and don'ts, thereby bringing them back under the law. Shame on us! These Pharisees cared more about the Sabbath than the man's healing. But this idea of not carrying a bed on the sabbath was not in the Law. It was part of their traditions that Jesus never followed.

But before we move on, we learn something about the man. Jesus told him to sin no more. This implies that it was sin that put him in his condition. The warning for us is clear. If we go back to our old life, we will be worse off than we were before.

Why? Because God loves us too much than to allow us to be comfortable in our sin. But the man departs and tells them it was Jesus who healed him. As far as we know he went a led a life of victory. May you find that same victory by rising up and walking in the power of the Spirit.

But now the story shifts from the man to the Jews. This would be the leadership that has rejected Jesus as the Messiah.

John 5:16-17

For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

Jesus is making His first statement that He is equal to the Father. One thing to note is that when it said that God rested on the seventh day does not mean He just stepped out and stopped interacting on Man’s behalf. There is a form of thought called Deism. This is where God created everything and then after that just let it go its own way. But of course, God is working 24/7! We couldn’t survive a day without Him! Now in case you run into anyone who says that Jesus never claimed to be God is someone completely ignorant of the scriptures. Even the Jews knew what He meant!

John 5:18

Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

I can always tell the heart of a legalist. They will start by a debate, then an argument and then name calling. The Bible says they have already murdered you in their heart. I have no time for these types of people on social media. I can see them coming a mile away. Jesus will use this attitude of the Jews to teach us some important truths. We will only be able to start this discourse today.

Like Father, Like Son in Authority

John 5:19-23

First, we see Jesus use the term “Most Assuredly”. It is what is called a double suppurative. A double use in the Greek to express the importance of a statement. Jesus will use this a lot in John. The Greek word used is our English word, Amen. It can mean “So be it” or in this case “This is a truth”. The KJV says Verily, verily. This idea of Jesus stating He is equal with the father is going to continue to grow in these discourses throughout John. He begins by reminding them that if the works

He does are from God, then He is God. By this time Jesus had been doing miracle after miracle, and they had refused to believe.

But notice what we learn from this. Jesus has been given all authority!

Philippians 2:8-11

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is equal to the Father in all things. If you do not believe this then you do not have salvation. Jesus is God and any other thought is a heresy. This discourse is a scathing rebuke to the Pharisees and we will pick up more of this next time but Jesus wants us to know one more important truth today...

John 5:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

As a young Christian I used to question the idea of eternal security. I had heard that someone could walk away from their salvation just as easily as one receives it. They would explain it wasn't lost and they knew where they left it and could always come back to it. But the more I thought about it was salvation eternal or conditional? If I could leave it, then that means there is something I have to do to keep it. If this is true, then it is no longer a total work of God but a partial work of God. I am no longer kept by His power but forced to have to continue to “abide”. I am no longer focused on His power but on my abilities. Do I have enough faith today? I have fallen from the standard needed to be saved? I can tell you nothing that will paralyze a believer more than assurance of salvation. Every day and every moment you are worried if you have done enough. Never at peace you are stuck in a place of indifference. Well Jesus breaks you of that in this very truth that He makes. It was when I studied the original language that my assurance was secured never to be questioned again. And it all came down to two little prepositions! * The Greek language and especially the use of prepositions are emphatic. Our English is not really

compatible in a word for word translation. This is the reality of the language...

Passed out of the place of death once and for all and never to return and enter into life where you stay once and for all.

All it took for me was one semester of New Testament Greek to find this out and it was a life changer. If you have placed your faith and trust in the Son, you have everlasting life. Not conditional life! I hope this has set someone free today! I hope you realize you can rise up and walk, not based on your performance but on what He has already done for you. Let's remind ourselves of this same truth that J the B said a couple of chapters ago...

John 3:34-36

“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”