

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / Jesus / John 5:1–24

The key to eternal life is recognizing who Jesus is as God, the one and only source of eternal life for all who believe.

Notes

04/28 Communion John 5:1-24, "Who is Jesus? Pt. 1," Subtitle: The key to life eternal, Scripture: Rom. 8:28-31

He who hears [Jesus'] word, and believes Him who sent [Him], has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Bethesda means, "House of Mercy." or Bethzatha (house of olive oil) or Bethsaida (house of fishermen), near today's St. Stephen's Gate.

Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 147.

The site of the Pool of Bethesda is next to the Church of St. Anne and is run by a Catholic religious congregation called the Missionaries of Africa (the "White Fathers," named so for their white robes), who are more interested in spiritual matters more than that of archaeology.

The excavators of the large Pool of Siloam, where Jesus cured the blind man, have interpreted it as a public *mikveh* for the festival crowds. The same was true of the Pool of Bethesda. These are in fact the two largest

mikva'ot in Jerusalem.

That both of these pools are mentioned only in the Gospel of John in the New Testament reflects John's intimate knowledge of Jerusalem. Jesus frequented sites such as Bethesda and Siloam because large numbers of people would be there. Both the blind man and the crippled man were hoping for healing. Jesus demonstrates his powers in both episodes, at the Pool of Bethesda simply by saying so. Bathing in the pool was unnecessary. His word was sufficient.

Urban c. von Wahlde, *The Puzzling Pool of Bethesda: Where Jesus cured the crippled man*, the Biblical Archaeology Society Library, <https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/article/the-puzzling-pool-of-bethesda/>, first accessed April 28th, 2024.

After the first century, the Romans used the site for pagan baths, dedicated to the Roman god Asclepius, the god of healing.

"Amēn, amēn, legō hymin" is an Aramaic phrase that translates to "**truly, truly, I say to you**" in the gospels. It is a solemn formula used to emphasize the importance of what is being said. The phrase conveys that Jesus is claiming absolute, first-hand, personal knowledge.

Jesus is equal to God (John 5:1-18)

Theological Implications and Personal Applications:

1. ++Jesus has compassion for those who are suffering (John 5:1-9)
2. ++Jesus can make what is wrong, right (John 5:1-9)
3. ++When Jesus heals you, you are healed (John 5:9)
4. ++Mankind's law does not have authority over God's (John 5:10-11)
5. ++If Jesus has healed you, stop sinning (John 5:12-14)

6. ++Avoid rebelling against God, just because you do not like what He says (John 4:15-18)

Jesus gives life to whomever He wishes (John 5:19-24)

Theological Implications and Personal Applications:

1. ++Life comes through Jesus alone (John 5:19-21)
2. ++Jesus is God (John 5:22-23)
3. ++Hear Jesus' words and accept God as God to experience life eternal (John 5:24)
4. ++There is no judgment for sin, for those who believe (John 5:24)

The key to eternal life is recognizing Jesus is God, the one and only source of eternal life for all who believe.

Amen, amen lego hymen - "hear ye, hear ye" or so it is decreed.