

## **Jesus Heals Impotent Man and Attends Second Passover**

**April 14:21, 27 A.D.**

**John 5:1-18**

## **Lame Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda**

### **Controversy Over the Sabbath Healing**

**Texts:**

**John 5:1-18,**

- 1. Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.**
- 2. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.**
- 3. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.**
- 4. From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance could be cured of whatever disease he had.**
- 5. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.**
- 6. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”**
- 7. “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”**
- 8. Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”**
- 9. At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,**
- 10. and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”**
- 11. But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”**
- 12. So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”**

**13. The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.**

**14. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”**

**15. The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

**16. So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.**

**17. Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”**

**18. For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**

### **Commentary:**

**John 5:1, Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.**

I. This feast of the Jews is thought to be the Passover.

A. John 2:13, When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

B. John 5:1

C. John 6:4, The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

D. John 19:31, Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

**John 5:2, Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.**

I. The “sheep gate” was the gate near the temple through which animals were brought to be sacrificed in temple worship.

II. By this gate near the temple in Jerusalem was a pool called Bethesda in the Hebrew language.

A. The five porches were colonnaded areas to which people could resort to avoid rain or strong sunlight.

B. This pool was a highly decorated and popular pool.

C. This pool was uncovered by archaeologists in 1931 – 1932 and was found to have been located 100 yards north of the temple.

**John 5:3, 4, Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance could be cured of whatever disease he had.**

I. This pool served as a health spa such as Warm Springs, GA, Hot Springs, AR, and Bath, England.

II. The blind, sick, halt and withered gathered there in hope of being healed.

A. An angel periodically came down and moved the water in the pool.

B. The first person who entered the pool after the moving of the water was healed of any disease he had.

C. Theoretically no Sadducees participated in these activities because they didn't believe in angels.

D. Hebrews 1:14, Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

**John 5:5, 6, One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"**

I. One particular man was at the pool who had been infirm 38 years.

II. Jesus saw the man and had compassion on him.

A. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be healed?"

B. Jesus offered to heal this man, but Jesus would not heal him against his will.

**John 5:7, "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."**

I. This man was alone with no one to help him in his time of illness.

A. Without help someone else would always enter the pool before he could get there when the waters were moved by the angel.

B. His problem was not a lack of will, but a lack of ability.

C. How frustrating this must have been for this man!

**John 5:8, 9, Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,**

I. Jesus directed the paralytic, “Arise, take up thy bed and walk.” The man was immediately healed, took up his bed and walked.

II. This man obeyed the Lord and received the promised blessings. This is also the way it is with us! What if the paralytic had not believed and obeyed?

III. This is the second paralytic mentioned in the Gospel According to John. Jesus has healed to this point in his ministry. Matthew 9:1-18; Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26.

A. In both Jesus said, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”

B. In both the religious hierarchy wanted to kill Jesus.

C. In both Jesus appeals to his works as evidence of his divine authority.

**John 5:10, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”**

I. Jesus performed this miracle at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath and this opened him to violent criticism from his enemies.

A. The Jews thought it was more important to observe the law according to their interpretation than it was to heal a man of his disability.

B. Jesus did not violate the Sabbath. He did violate the Jewish idea of how the Sabbath should be observed.

C. Jesus was in fact Lord of the Sabbath. Matthew 12:8, For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

D. The healed man did not violate the prohibition regarding labor on the Sabbath when he carried his pallet and walked.

1. Jeremiah 17:19-27, This is what the Lord said to me: “Go and stand at the gate of the people, through which the kings of Judah go in and out; stand also at all the other gates of Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and all people of Judah and everyone living in Jerusalem who come through these gates. This is what the Lord says: Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem. Do not bring a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers. Yet they did not listen or pay attention; they were stiff-necked and would not listen or respond to discipline. But if you are careful to obey me, declares the Lord, and bring no load through the gates of this city on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy by not doing any work on it, then kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this city with their officials. They and their officials will come riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by the men of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, and this city will be inhabited forever. People will come from the towns of Judah and the villages around Jerusalem, from the territory of Benjamin and the western foothills, from the hill country and the Negev, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings, incense and thank offerings to the house of the Lord. But if you do not obey me to keep the Sabbath day holy by not carrying any load as you come through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle an unquenchable fire in the gates of Jerusalem that will consume her fortresses.’”

2. Nehemiah 13:15, In those days I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day.

**John 5:11, But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”**

I. The legalistic Jews accused the man now restored to health of violating the Sabbath by taking up his pallet and walking thus working on the Sabbath.

II. The man (unnamed) replied that the one who had authority over his illness told him to take up his bed and walk and that was that!

III. The Jews were not interested in the man’s being healed! They did not mention the healing. They were only interested in glorying in the law and finding fault with Jesus and those associated with him.

IV. The healed man had no doubt that if Jesus could command his infirmity to depart, he could command him to take up his bed and walk.

**John 5:12, So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”**

I. An astounding wonder had occurred in the presence of a multitude but these Jews were not concerned with that.

II. The Jews were only concerned that their petty little hair-splitting regulations had been violated... and these were the religious leaders of Israel.

III. They wanted to castigate not only the man who took up his bed and walked, but the one who told him to take up his bed and walk.

**John 5:13, The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.**

I. Jesus had not announced with great fan fare, “I am Jesus and I am going to heal you.”

II. Jesus saw a suffering man, provided relief and vanished into the multitudinous crowd.

III. We must, as we have opportunity, do good to all men for the glory of God without seeking honor and accolades for ourselves.

**John 5:14, Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”**

I. The man later went to the temple and Jesus found him there.

A. Jesus knew where this man was.

B. Jesus knows where we are.

C. If Jesus were to come looking for us, where would he find us?

II. Jesus told this man now healed of his illness to “sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.”

A. This man’s sin caused his infirmity.

B. Sometimes our sins cause our illnesses.

C. John 9:3, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

D. An incredible amount of the world's woe is the result of the world's sins.

III. What could be worse than a 38 year spell of illness?

A. The eternal fate of the wicked is worse.

B. A worse more painful fatal earthly illness could befall him next time!

**John 5:15, The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

I. Now the man knew who had healed him. He told the Jews it was Jesus who had healed him

A. Why did this man identify Jesus for his enemies?

B. Did he who had received blessings from Jesus turn against him.

C. He may have tried to bring the Jews to a positive regard for Jesus because he continued to credit Jesus for his healing.

D. However his identifying Jesus only resulted in the Jews intensifying their opposition of Jesus.

**John 5:16, So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.**

I. The Jews persecuted Jesus because he did these things on the Sabbath.

- A. These people had made the word of God ineffectual by their human traditions.
- B. They were adamant in refusing to admit any error on their part.

**John 5:17, Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”**

I. Jesus did not violate the Sabbath.

- A. Jesus stated that God was his father and
- B. both he and his Father worked on the Sabbath. If Jesus were a Sabbath breaker so was God the Father.
- C. God never ceased to work in physical and spiritual matters. God the Father healed on the Sabbath and made the sun rise on the Sabbath as well.

**John 5:18, For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**

I. The Jews recognized that Jesus claimed to be one with the Father.

- A. For this reason they thought even more about killing Jesus!
- B. This is not a very godly thing to do. Religious people have done horrible ungodly things in the name of God!

II. Jesus did not break the Sabbath. The Jews **claimed** he broke the Sabbath. He did assert his divinity!

- A. John 19:7, The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

B. The break between Jesus and his enemies was now irrevocable and would continue to grow until Jesus was crucified<sup>1</sup>

III. Two early heresies are laid to rest by these two verses (John 5:17, 18,); viz.,

A. Arius (died 336 A.D.) who taught that Jesus was a created being.

B. Sabellius (circa 230 A.D.) who taught that God, the Holy Spirit, and Christ are identical, and that Jesus was not God come in the flesh.

## Lame Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda

### Questions

1. Jesus went up to \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews which was also called \_\_\_\_\_.

2. In \_\_\_\_\_ near the \_\_\_\_\_ there is a pool which is called in \_\_\_\_\_ which is surrounded by \_\_\_\_\_.

3. At that place a great number of \_\_\_\_\_ people gathered including the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Occasionally an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord would come down and \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_. The first person into the \_\_\_\_\_ after each \_\_\_\_\_ would be \_\_\_\_\_ of whatever \_\_\_\_\_ he had.

5. One man who was there had been an \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ years.

6. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ this man had been an invalid a long time and asked him, "Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_?"

7. The invalid man said, "I have \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_." How sad this is! When have we felt this same way?

8. Jesus said to him, "\_\_\_\_\_! Pick up your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." Jesus expects us to do our part!

9. At \_\_\_\_\_ the man was \_\_\_\_\_. He picked up his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This took place on the \_\_\_\_\_.

10. The Jews condemned the man who was healed for carrying his \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_. Religious leaders condemned this man for doing what Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ him to do!

11. The man who \_\_\_\_\_ had no idea who had \_\_\_\_\_ him.

12. Jesus later found him in the \_\_\_\_\_ and told him, “\_\_\_\_\_, you are \_\_\_\_\_ again. \_\_\_\_\_ or something \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.”

13. Was this man’s sickness caused by his sins? \_\_\_\_\_ Are our illnesses ever caused by our sins? \_\_\_\_\_.

14. The man went and told the \_\_\_\_\_ that it was \_\_\_\_\_ who had made him \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Because Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, the Jews \_\_\_\_\_ him.

16. Jesus answered, “My \_\_\_\_\_ is always at \_\_\_\_\_ to this very \_\_\_\_\_, and I, too, am \_\_\_\_\_.”

17. For this reason the \_\_\_\_\_ tried all the harder to \_\_\_\_\_ him; not only was he heading the \_\_\_\_\_, but he was even calling \_\_\_\_\_ his own \_\_\_\_\_, making \_\_\_\_\_ equal with \_\_\_\_\_.

18. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the gate near the \_\_\_\_\_ through which \_\_\_\_\_ were brought to be sacrificed in \_\_\_\_\_.

19. What are some things we believe and do which conflict with God's will? The Jews here, for example, condemned Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. \_\_\_\_\_

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20. We must, as we have \_\_\_\_\_, do good to \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ without seeking \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves.

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:  
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