

**Rhema Christian Center Triumphant Bible Study**  
**Tuesday 12 /3/2024 & Wisdom Wednesday 12/4/24**  
**Presenter- Willie Bryant**

**John Chapter 5 NKJV: A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda**

**Date written:** In 5:2 the present tense is here in the text **indicates** that when John wrote his gospel, the pool of Bethesda was still there. However, by AD 68-70, Jerusalem had been destroyed, along with the Temple, by the Roman invasion. This could **indicate** John wrote his gospel prior to AD 67. {taken from the TPT Bible notes)

**John chapter 5 can be viewed in two parts.**

- Jesus's Demonstration of Divine Authority John 5:1-15
- Jesus's claims of Divine Authority John 16-47
- Key Verses 24-25

**VS 1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.**

Jewish men living in or around Jerusalem were required to attend several festivals within the city each year. (Deuteronomy 16:16). There were three major Jewish festivals attracting Pilgrims to Jerusalem Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles. Here there was no mention which festival celebrated.

5:1b TPT noted From Galilee, **Jesus** returned to Jerusalem to observe one of the Jewish feasts."

**VS 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.**

**The Sheep Gate** is where the sacrificial animals were bought into the Temple. (TPT Bible notes)

- \*\*\* This points us to the Lamb of God who's Cross and sacrifice brought us healing.

- Archaeologists have discovered a double pool near St Anne's Church in Jerusalem surrounded by five porticoes located near the Sheep Gate, confirming the validity of the biblical account.
- The archaeologist also noted the excavated were fed by intermittent springs.
- **THE pool** "was seen **as a** healing shrine even by second century Roman cults." (NIV Interactive Bible)
- The Hebrew word for **Bethesda means** "house of mercy or house of grace, in Hebrew and Aramic it could also mean disgrace." (The Bible Illustrated Dictionary)

**VS 3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

**VS 4** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: these people were still under the Law. **Covered walkways or alcoves ... "many** sick people, the lame paralyzed used these Covered walkways or alcoves as **covering** from the elements," since they were under the covering of the Law (the five books of the Torah)

Note the law cannot heal.

Christ is the healer, the living Torah (Matt 8-16 NKJV)

An angel comes to stir the pool at Bethesda. **Jesus is the healer,** he comes to "**stir sinners**, to comfort the afflicted and stir them in preparation for what he would do on the cross.

**VS 5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

**VS 6** 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?"

VS 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.”

The lame man answer “no one to help me “is admitting he needed help. He was stuck behind hopelessness.”

The takeaway: Jesus’ question shows us that he will not force himself upon anyone. Notice he seek permission before intervening in that person life. We as Christians should follow Jesus’ pattern before intervening in healing etc.

**Questions to you and me:** do you want to be made well? Do you feel hopeless in your trials, have you been in the situation for a long time?

NOTE to us Jesus’s authoritative words and healing power can heal our hurt. There is no situation -too hopeless for Jesus to transform. God provides the strength we need to trust Him and His purpose.

VS 8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”

VS 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath.

**Notice Jesus offered three commands:**

- **“Get up”** – Jesus’s words communicated power that demanded a response, mysteriously combining His healing power and this man’s effort. Jesus offered His healing to his legs that not bore weight for 38 years.
- **“Pick up your mat”** – Jesus invited this man to move forward from dependence upon others while offering him the strength to do so. This command later invited the condemnation of the religious leaders.

- **“Walk”**- No longer immobilized in a hopeless state, the man heard Jesus call him beyond where he had been stuck. He could choose a new life with all responsibilities of a whole body and personality.

**Notice, the lame man didn't know who Jesus was, yet** without question, the lame man was obedient to Jesus' command. He picked up his mat and walked. He didn't have physical therapy; his legs just sprang to life. This demonstrated faith and obedience. This Was A Miracle!

2 Corinthians 5:17 CJB says “Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation — the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!”

**VS 10** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

**VS 11** He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’ ”

**VS 12** Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?”

**VS 13** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place.

**VS 14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

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

**This was done on the Sabbath.** The religious leaders had created a law—a set of punishable rules no work on the Sabbath and “healing was work.”

You would think the religious leaders (the Pharsees) would rejoice this man was healed, instead they were more concerned about their rules and power then life and health of this man's healing.

**Now look at the love of Jesus in verse 14.** He sought out the healed man to warn him that though he was healed physically, his thirty-eight years as an invalid would be nothing compared to"

eternity in hell." The man needed a greater miracle. He needed to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed.

In verse 15 after all this there was no mentioning the healed man thanking Jesus for healing him. Instead, the man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. This report triggered the Jews persecution of Jesus.

### **Honor the Father and the Son**

**VS 16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**

**VS 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."**

**VS 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.**

The code of Jewish Law, known as the Mis hnah describes thirty-nine activities as work on the Sabbath, including, plucking grain, hunting, sewing two stiches, or writing two letters. Additional man-made regulations forbade carrying a small item, administering medicine, or attempting to heal on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath became a burden God never intended.

God rested from His work of creation on the seventh day, but he never ceased to protect, preserve, and direct creation.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit constantly work together to redeem and restore humanity from sin.

Genesis 2:2 says “God rested on the seventh day; He rested from the work of creation, but began the work of sustaining creation.”

Mark 2:27 NLT “Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.”

**Note** God did not release us from keeping the Sabbath. God intends the Sabbath day to be a delight and not a burden. Ordinary work stops so people can rest and focus on loving and worshipping God.

The good news is, God didn't break the Sabbath, He loosed it from the bondage of tradition and man-made rules.

VS 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

VS 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

VS 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

VS 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

VS 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Life and Judgment Are Through the Son

VS 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.

VS 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

VS 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

VS 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

VS 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

VS 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

VS 30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

### **Vss 19-30 Jesus “claims to be God.**

**Let’s review vs 19. Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**

**What God does, what Messiah does, what Jesus did.**

**1.** God alone judges psalms 7:6-17; 9:7-8. Joel 3:12. Messiah has authority to judge Daniel 7:13-14 Jeremiah 23:5-6. Jesus claimed and demonstrated his authority to judge John 5:27.

Because Jesus demonstrated his authority, we have no reason to fear Judgement, or what people may do to us.

**2.** God alone heals Isaiah 35:3-7. Messiah has the power to heal Isaiah 53:4-5; 61:1-3, Jesus demonstrated the power to heal John 5:8, 20, 26.

Because Jesus demonstrated his power to heal, we can claim that power in our lives for now and eternity.

**3.** God alone gives life Genesis 1:20-27; Deuteronomy 32:39; 1Samuel 2:6; 2 Kings 5:7. Messiah has the power to give life Daniel 7:13-14, Jesus claimed and demonstrated the power to give life John 5:21.

Because Jesus demonstrated His power over death, we do not have to fear dying.

**VS 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.**

God alone can reverse the power of death resurrection. God gave that power to the Son is demonstrated in Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. See John 11:41-43

**VS 22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

**VS 23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

God entrusted him (Jesus) with Judicial and executive authority to judge. He has equal dignity and honor with the father. "To refuse Jesus is to turn away from the father, because Jesus provides the only way to God.

The proof that Jesus was equal with God was His control over the whole judicial process.

Acts 17:31 AMPC says: "Because He has fixed a day when He will judge the world righteously (justly) by a Man Whom He has



destined and appointed for that task, and He has made this credible and given conviction and assurance and evidence to everyone by raising Him from the dead. Psm9:8: 96:13:98:9.

Matthew 25:32 NKJV "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

**VS 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.

**He who hears---**"true hearing results in believing. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the word of God. Romans 10:17

**Everlasting (eternal) life** ---the believer has eternal life as a present possession, guaranteeing an eternal life with God and not unto judgement. HALALUIAH!!!

**VS 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.**

Jesus was "referring to the spiritual dead who hears, understand, and accept him". Those who

Accepts God's word have eternal life, even though they may still experience physical death John 11:24-26.

We can see the proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power over man's destiny , the power to save men from death to life.

**VS 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,**

**VS 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.**

**VS 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice**

**VS 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

In verses 28-29 “the hour is coming” is saying “when all will be gathered from death, some to eternal life and some to eternal condemnation.”

**VS 30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**

The “distinctions within the persons of the trinity allows each to perform certain specific functions, but the divine unity of God means Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each do what the others would do if the roles were changed”.

### **The Confirming Fourfold Witness**

**VS 31** “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.

**VS 32** There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

**VS 33** You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

**VS 34** Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

**VS 35** He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

**VS 36** But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

**VS 37** And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

**VS 38** But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

**VS 39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

**VS 40** But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

**VS 41** “I do not receive honor from men.

**VS 42** But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

**VS 43** I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

**VS 44** How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

**VS 45** Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.

**VS 46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

**VS 47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

These verses make it clear that Jesus claimed to be divine

**According to the Jewish law, truth or validity had to be established by two or three witnesses Deuteronomy 17:6;19:15.**

**Jesus backs up His divine credentials with the testimony of four reliable witnesses.**

**Number 1:** John the Baptist 5:33-35. John the Baptist testified of Jesus often and boldly. He was a reflection of the light, not the light itself.

John 1:7-8 TPT says “For he came as a witness, to point the way to the Light of Life, and to help everyone believe. John was not that Light but he came to show who is. For he was merely a messenger to speak the truth about the Light.”

**Number 2: Jesus’ works 5:36.**

The Father testified to the Son was the works he gave him to do in vs 19-20. By doing these works were summed up in the achievement of the world’s salvation. The prime purpose of his coming into the world says John 3:17 KJV ““For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 5:37 NLT “And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face,”

Jesus stated that his own works offered a testimony. The miracles Jesus performed attested to His divine authority by the Sabbath healing. Jesus did things only God could do.

Jesus’ miracles validated His identity as God in human flesh. Jesus demonstrated works that pointed to the ultimate work He came to finish – His death and resurrection.

The” work Jesus does in us still bears testimony.

**Number 3:** The father himself 5:37. The father gave direct witness to his Son at Jesus baptism Matt.3:16-17, on the Mount of Transfiguration Matt 17:5, before his crucifixion matt 12:28’

**Number 4:** The Scriptures: **VS 39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me’

We do not earn life by studying the scriptures. But, by studying the scriptures we can meet the source of life: Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Scriptures are able to make you aware of salvation, but that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures clearly pointed to Jesus. Jesus boldly confronted His accusers with undeniable truth. The Son of God who came to earth speaks and works in perfect harmony with the Father.

**Number 5: Moses:** John 5:45-47

Moses had written about Christ (see Genesis 3:15 there are many more scriptures to support this fact)

Luke 24:44 NLT “Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.””

The testimonies of Moses and Jesus are closely interrelated that to believe one is to believe the other; to refuse one is to refuse the other.

Jesus by his own testimony, did not come to annul the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfil them (Matt 5:17)

Finally, there are several lessons or takeaways:

- **God’s grace.** God can work miracles without merit, earning, or deserving on our part.
- **Outward blessing,** can accompany **inner death.** paradoxically, the man at the pool of Bethesda is healed outwardly, but apparently is never healed inwardly, because he shows no evidence of repentance when Jesus calls him to it.
- Ask a discerning question (vs 6) . when you pray, ask what people want, in order to assess their needs and desires.
- God-awareness (vss 16-18). some people, like the Pharisees, are so obsessed with their rules that they miss the miracle.
- Jesus expects repentance (vs 14). It is possible to repent and turn from our sins, we can change and improve, even if we don’t become perfect in this life.

The good news for us: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NKJV

AMEN

Sources used:

NKJV

The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible

Logos Bible Study

Life Application Bible Commentary JOHN

F.F. Bruce-The Gospel of John

Warren Wiersbe Commentary -Be Worthful Psalms