

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 5 PT. 1: The Healing at Bethesda

John 5:1-17

Verses 1-3

John 5:1-3 (NASB) – “¹After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep *Gate*, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porticoes. ³In these *porticoes* lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, *or* paralyzed.”

Understanding: “Feast of the Jews” creates a dilemma. Because it does not specify which feast it is, many have simply guessed. I have come to learn that when the scripture doesn’t say what it is, then it was not something we needed to focus on.

- Unfortunately, mankind likes a good debate even when none is needed.
- What we can say for sure is it is simply an unnamed feast.

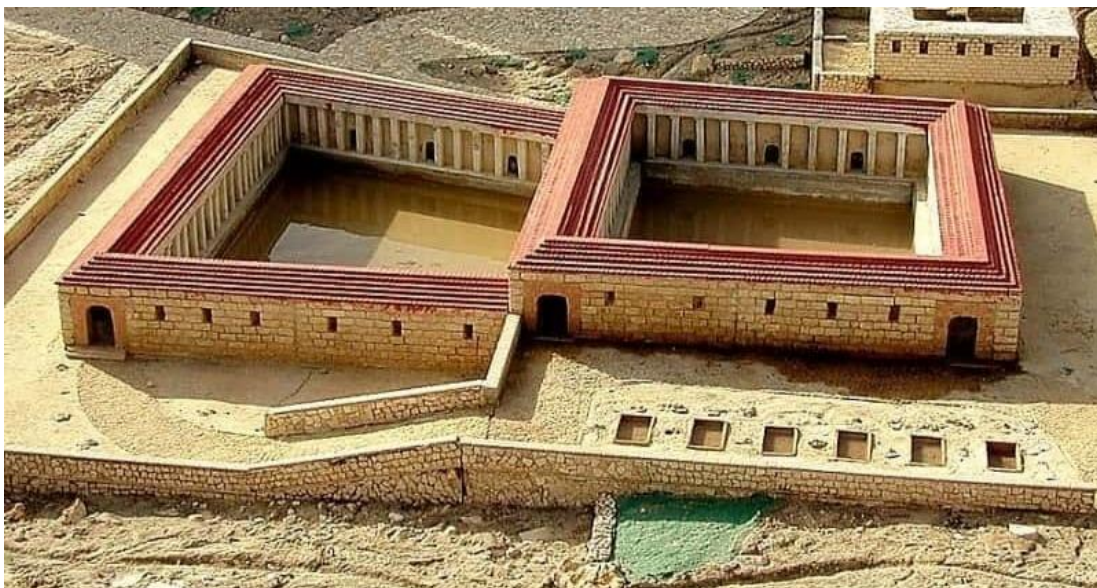


Bethesda - (“House of Mercy/Grace” or “Flowing Water”) - Of Aramaic origin - the name of a pool near the sheep-gate at Jerusalem, whose waters had curative powers.

John 5:3 (NASB) – “³ In these *porticoes* lay a **multitude** of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed.”



Porticoes-(Greek)-“stoa” (στοά). It typically refers to a covered walkway or colonnade, often found in ancient Greek architecture, such as at the entrance of temples or as part of public spaces like the agora.



Verse 4

Note: The verse has been removed from some translations. For one reason: “**angel of the Lord**”.

John 5:4 (AMP) – “⁴ for an **angel of the Lord** went down into the pool at appointed seasons and stirred up the water; the first one to go in after the water was stirred was healed of his disease.]”

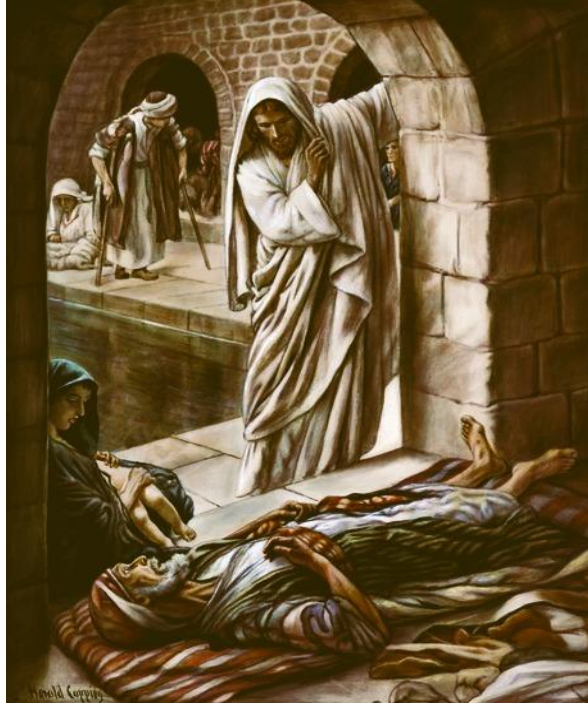


Note: The (Greek) phrase translated as "an angel went "Angelos-means messenger or angel, "katabainō"- meaning "to go down" or "descend."

Troubling-(Greek)-tar-as'-so-to agitate, trouble (a thing, by the movement of its parts to and fro).

Verse 5-7

John 5:5-7 (NASB) – “⁵ Now a man was there who had been ill for **thirty-eight years**. ⁶ Jesus, upon seeing this man lying *there* and knowing that he had already been *in that condition* for a long time, said to him, ‘**Do you want to get 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.’”



Key: Yeshua asked a very simple question: **“Do you want to get well?”** Why did the man not give a resounding **“YES”**?

Remember: This man has been this way for 38 years!

Understanding: You have here a limitation of this miraculous virtue.

- This stirring had a specific time. (**Verse 4 - “at appointed seasons”**)
- Also, you had to be first. (**Verse 4 – “the first one to go in”**)
- The strength of others put him at a disadvantage. (**Verse 7 – “while I am coming, another steps down before me”**)

Key: This man was not lazy. He wasn't faithless or hopeless. He was helpless!

Helpless-(Greek)-*asthenes*-often translated in its literal meaning, "without strength".

Note: This is the Word coming alive! Before the Word was written, it was walking! Remember what Paul teaches us through his thorn after pleading with the Lord three times to remove it:

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (AMP) – “⁸ Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me; ⁹ but He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]; for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness.’”

Verses 8-9

John 5:8-9 (NASB) – “⁸ Jesus said to him, ‘Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.’ ⁹ **Immediately** the man became well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk. Now it was a Sabbath on that day.”



Note: How fitting both Grace and Mercy are demonstrated by the Lord Jesus in the place called Bethesda!

- **Jesus’ words alone healed this man.**
- He felt the power of Christ's words healing him: ***Immediately he was made whole.***
- Grace has already been given. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
- The Mercies of the Lord are new every morning! (**Lamentations 3:23**)

Verses 10-13

John 5:10-13 (NASB) – “¹⁰ So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, ‘It is a Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.’ ¹¹ But he answered them, ‘He who made me well was the one who said to me, “Pick up your

pallet and walk.”¹² They asked him, ‘Who is the Man who said to you, “Pick *it* up and walk”?’¹³ But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for **Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in *that* place.**”

Note: Never allow religion to cost you the joy of what the Lord is doing in your life or what He wants to do in your life!

- The fact that they were more concerned about breaking the Sabbath law than the fact this man was healed, shows where their hearts are.
- They were more offended about keeping the Sabbath than to see a man who suffered for 38 years healed.

Question: Why would Jesus slip away?

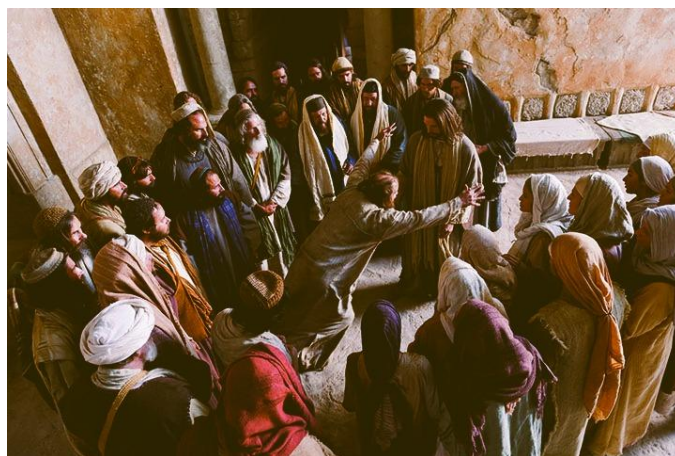
Answer: Jesus had no need to boast about His abilities.

- Jesus knew the miracle would speak for itself.
- We can draw much wisdom from this.
- No matter what you do for the Lord, it will draw both applause and cursing.

Note: Jesus knew who He was; neither would impact Him!

Verse 14

John 5:14 (NASB) – “¹⁴ Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.’”



- Jesus finds the man in the place one would expect after a miracle has been given.

- Jesus makes a statement that falls right in line with what we know about sin today.

Romans 6:23 (AMP) – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Note: Jesus gives the man caution against sin, in consideration hereof, *Being made whole, sin no more.*

- The caution implies that his disease was the punishment of sin; whether of some remarkably flagrant sin, or only of sin in general due to a fallen world.
- We cannot tell, but we know that sin is the procuring cause of sickness.
- We know this can be because it has been written before.

Psalm 107 - Book 5



Understanding: This psalm is a hymn, traditionally attributed to David (the specific authorship isn't explicitly stated in the text itself) of thanksgiving that praises G-d for His deliverance and enduring love. It highlights G-d's faithfulness in rescuing people from various troubles, emphasizing that His mercy is everlasting.

Psalm 107:17-19 (NASB) – “¹⁷ Fools, because of their rebellious way, And because of **their guilty deeds, were afflicted.** ¹⁸ Their souls loathed all kinds of food, And they came close to the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them from their distresses.”

Verses 15-17

John 5:15-17 (NASB) – “¹⁵ The man went away, and informed the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on a Sabbath. ¹⁷ But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’”

- The goal of the man telling the Jews that it was Jesus was to give him honor.
- The man could not have guessed that this would bring so much hatred against Him.
- Religion will always regard its laws above the workings of Christ in the lives of man.

Key: Yeshua is pointing out in verse 17 just who He is working with and on behalf of in the earth! He states that He was a worker together with G-d. (*My Father worketh hitherto*).



- As G-d created all things by Christ, so He supports and governs all by Him.
- Jesus is emphasizing that He that does all, is Lord of all, and therefore *Lord of the sabbath*.
- Jesus is giving them a lesson in just whose authority He operates in; HIS OWN!

Matthew 12:6-7 (AMP) – “⁶ ‘But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. ⁷ And if you had only known what this statement means, I DESIRE

COMPASSION [for those in distress], AND NOT [animal] SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent."

Lord of the Sabbath

Matthew 12:8 (AMP) – “⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Matthew 12:11-12 (AMP) – “¹¹ But He said to them, ‘What man is there among you who, if he has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep!...””

Note: They did not hate Jesus because of what He did. They hated Him because of Who He was! His love for you has no boundaries!

The End