

Jesus Offers Life

John 5:1-3 ¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed... (waiting for the moving of the water; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had)

⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **“Do you want to be healed?”** ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, **“Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”** ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, **‘Take up your bed, and walk.’**” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, **“See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”** ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, **“My Father is working until now, and I am working.”** ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**

❖ Introduction

- I Pray God’s Blessing and Power and Spirit on His People this Morning
- Children

➤ Recap

- The Relentless Pursuit of God
- The Natural Response to God’s Pursuit

➤ Today:

- **Jesus performs his 3rd Miracle**
 - Water into Wine, Healing of the Official's Son, and today healing the lame man
- **Between His Meeting of the Woman at the Well Healing the Lame man**
 - We see Jesus at the end of chapter 4 healing a child of an official.
 - The man asks Jesus to heal his son, So Jesus heals him.
 - But the neat thing was that Jesus was not even anywhere near the child when He healed

➤ **The Healing of the Lame Man**

- 1) Jesus as He Relates to Man
- 2) The Man as He Relates to Jesus
- 3) Jesus as He Relates to God (Central)
- 4) Us as We Relate to this Man and Jesus (Application)

❖ **The Setting:**

➤ **As We Know, this story comes after the Woman at the Well and the Healing of the boy**

➤ **In chapter 2 Jesus is in Galilee for the wedding...**

- He travels South to Jerusalem for Passover and cleansing the temple
- He then starts to travel back north to Galilee
- But Has to make a pass through Samaria (where He meets the woman)
- He continues on to Galilee where He heals the Official's Son

➤ **Now we See Here in ch. 5 that Jesus has again traveled South to Jerusalem for Passover**

- And He comes to this pool called Bethesda
 - Which means "House of Mercy"
- And it is located right by the sheep gate...
 - This is essentially a holding place for livestock like sheep...
- And Around and maybe even over this pool are five roofed colonnades
 - This was done so that those who were there could have a little shade from the hot sun

➤ **A Place for the Sick**

▪ **There were sick people everywhere....**

- Invalids: Blind, Lame and paralyzed
- And they would just lay around here all day...

▪ **A Hospital and a Petting Zoo right beside each other...**

- Not a healthy combination...
- Most of these sick people just layed around all day...
- And I assume it was a nasty place given the inability of many to walk to the bathroom...
- I also assume there were a few people that tried to look after these sick people

▪ **Waiting to Hopefully get healed...**

➤ **Their Hope for Healing we see in vs 4 and 7**

- *Vs 7 ... The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."*
- *Vs 4 ... waiting for the moving of the water; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had*

- Vs 4 is not in some translations: Why you ask?
 - ◆ Well... in an effort to explain but not confuse, let me give you an answer.
 - Is that Ok... I don't want to make anyone's head spin
 - ◆ **1) Used to be no verse numbers in the Bible... We put those in hundreds of years ago to help in reference**
 - ◆ **2) We have thousands of manuscripts of the New Testament.**
 - A manuscript is just a copy of a copy of the original...
 - Our Bible's today are like manuscripts...
 - ◆ **3) The manuscripts that our Bible's are translated from the original languages**
 - Some are almost 2,000 years old... not quite though
 - Some are older than others...
 - ◆ **4) The older manuscripts that many scholars believe are more reliable and closer to the originals do not have this vs 4 in them...**
 - It is not like it skips a verse, since the verses were not in there,
 - It is just that this sentence is not in those earlier, older manuscripts
 - ◆ **5) Many believe that some scribe just added it in the manuscript as a bit of explanation**
- **What do I think? I am not sure.**
 - ◆ The Bible says it is inspired by God...
 - And our belief is that is true of the original writings...
 - What is important is that it does not affect any major doctrines in the Bible...

➤ **Something Supernatural is going on at the pool**

- So you ask the question... are people really getting healed...?
- Certainly; When the water is stirred and if they get in on time, some would be healed...
- If not, then why do we see such a big amount of people here...

❖ **1) Jesus as He Relates to Man**

➤ **1) Jesus seeks out the Man**

- **Jesus Goes Where the Sick Are:**
- **Luke 5:31 ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.**
- Good News.... He goes to where these people are down and out

➤ **2) Jesus Acts Freely:**

- **⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.**
- Out of all of these people, Jesus picks this man...
- He only picked out one that we know of...
 - He could have done more...
 - We do know that He worked a multitude of miracles that were never recorded...
 - John says that books couldn't contain all He did...

➤ **3) Jesus Knows Man's Condition**

- **⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time**
- **John 2:25 ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.**

- Psalm 139:1-4 ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

- Rejoice in this!

➤ 4) Jesus Is Compassionate

- ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?”
- He saw the man lying there sick
 - He knew He had been there a long time
 - 9 times in the gospels the Bible says Jesus is moved with compassion
- Thank God This is True

➤ 5) Offers to Heal

- Do you want to be healed?”
- May seem like an odd question
 - But there are many who like to use their sickness as a crutch or reason to not try
- Rejoice in the grace of Christ

➤ 6) Jesus Has the Power to Heal Man By His Word

- Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹ And at once the man was healed,
 - When Jesus **Speaks**, things obey....
 - Hebrews 1.3... Upholds the universe by the **word** of His power
- What a Comforting Truth... Our God holds all power

➤ 7) Jesus Heals the Man’s Body to Heal the Man’s Soul

- ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”
- Jesus is not as concerned with the outward...
 - His focus is the inner man...
 - He uses this healing to make a path into the man’s heart
 - ◆ In the same way He told that woman all she ever did...
 - ◆ He confronts this man and His Sin....
 - Remember Jesus knew Him completely
- Thank God He doesn’t leave us the way He finds us...

➤ 8) Jesus Heals to Glorify God

- Vs 9 ... Now that day was the Sabbath.
- He does it on the Sabbath (purposely draws attention to God’s Work)
 - He Knows the Leaders would notice the man walking with His Bed
 - This is intentional
- The Sabbath was a day set aside for rest and to worship God
 - But the Jewish people made up a bunch of extra laws of things you couldn’t do.
- Jesus knows this healing will not go unnoticed...
 - This healing glorified God...

➤ 9) Jesus Never Stops Working for Us

- ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working
 - Jesus is telling this man, and all men... I never rest from seeking you out....
 - I never grow tired or weary
 - My work is always about seeking you...

❖ 2) The Man as He Relates to Jesus

➤ 1) The Man is Physically Lame

- He had been through A lot
 - an invalid for thirty-eight years.
- Can you even imagine how difficult this would be....

➤ 2) The Man Had No Hope (no friends even to help)

- ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”
- **Why would He... He couldn't hardly move... He had no ability to walk...**
 - He didn't have a wheel chair...
 - He was reduced to crawling to the pool when the time came...
 - Crawling around and through a bunch of sickly people...
 - Getting stepped on by the blind men

➤ 3) The Man Responded in Faith

- ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.
- **You may ask, How did He respond in Faith**
 - He TOOK up His bed....
 - HE could have sat there and laughed...
 - ◆ He could have look at Jesus and said... Really? I have been this way 38 years
 - ◆ You think you can just tell me to get up and walk...
- **He responded to Jesus by trying...**
 - Had the man not attempted to get up...
 - He would have never been healed...
- **His Ability Was Given to Him By God...**
 - Notice, He did not have the ability to get up all this time...
 - I am sure He had tried before in vain to walk...
 - He couldn't... Jesus Healed Him and gave Him the ability to try
- **This man's healing is completely credited to Jesus...**
 - In Faith He stood... Not by His own strength... But He simply believed Jesus

➤ 4) The Man Followed Jesus

- Picked up His mat... and did what Jesus told Him to do...
 - ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’ ”
- Didn't work out to well for him with the Jewish leaders...
- Sometimes doing what God calls you to do, doesn't always work out in your favor on this earth
- **EXAMPLE: ME and JARRETT and the TEN POINT**

➤ 5) The Man Thanked God

- ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple
- Went Straight to the Temple to Worship... Not to his doctor, or Physical Therapist

➤ 6) The Man was Spiritually Dead

- ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”
- **You See Now Jesus Real Concern**
 - It seems as if this man’s sin was the cause of His sickness...
 - ◆ And this happens... Often man is sick because of their sin and rebellion to God
 - ◆ Often God uses sickness as a way to discipline His Children or punish the rebellious
 - You say... NO... that is not true... He is not like that...
 - ◆ I would be wrong not to warn you of this possibility since we see it throughout the Bible
- **IMPORTANT: Being sick or sickly does not mean it’s your sin that is the reason**
 - Remember the man born blind...
 - It was for God’s glory, not b/c of sin...
- **Evaluate Your Life...**
 - If you are sick all the time... there is a reason for it...
 - #1 It is the Natural part of Life... (because of the fall we are all breaking down)
 - #2 Your Sin has God’s hand of discipline on you (Repent)
 - #3 God wants to use you in a special way to bring glory to His name...
 - IN all Three God is glorified...
- **Something Worse:**
 - What is worse than 38 years without being able to walk...
 - Eternity in Hell... Jesus knew that if this man did not respond by following Him...
 - He would have been better off unhealed...

❖ 3) Jesus as He Relates to God (Central)

➤ **Rebellious Man Doesn’t Like This Part**

- ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

➤ 1) Jesus Proclaims He is the Lord of the Sabbath Day...

- Matthew 12:8 ⁸ For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”
- **This Healing is not Random.... Jesus is making a statement as to who He is...**
 - He knows this... He knows they will react like this...
 - He knows how legalistic and foolish they are...
- **Jesus Means to Use This As a Teaching Moment**
 - It is almost like He used this healing as an object lesson...
 - He is trying to turn their world upside down...
 - He wants them to understand who He is....
- **APPLICATION: Doesn’t He do this to us so often...**

➤ 2) Jesus is Acting Like He is Equal With God

- ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
- 3) **Jesus Does All the Things the Father Does**
 - ¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.
 - **Truly Truly**.... Means He is about to say something very important.... so listen closely
 - Whatever : He does whatever... Everything.... All things...
 - Who is able to do the things God can do.... Only God
- 4) **Jesus Sees All the Things the Father Does**
 - ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.
 - As the Son, He even then could see all the things the Father is doing...
 - Who can see all the things God is doing besides God
- 5) **Jesus Gives Life**
 - ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.
 - Who is able to give life.... Only God...
 - And In John 1 we see that in Jesus is Life...
 - He is the source of Life...
- 6) **Jesus Judges**
 - ²² The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,
 - He relates Himself to God by saying He is the one who judges...
 - He has been given the authority to Judge...
 - Who is the judge of Creation... It is God
- 7) **Jesus is to be Honored just as the Father is honored (Central to understanding)**
 - ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.
 - **Huge Implications Here:**
 - This is where it all comes together... Without understanding this, we miss it all...
 - **This Honor belongs to the Father because He is God.... (The one True God)**
 - Jesus says He should be honored in the same way...
 - The Jewish leaders hated that He said this...
 - To them it seemed like He was saying He is equal with God...
 - And who can be equal with God except God...
 - **THE ATTACK: Our Belief as Christians that Jesus is God will always be attacked...**
 - It is essential to our Faith... Without it, our Faith is in something else...
 - These guys could not believe He is God...
 - ◆ This is why they would not come to know Him...
 - **W/O Believing that Jesus is God, you have placed your Faith in a different thing...**
 - This is central to honoring Jesus...
 - When We honor Him, we are to honor Him as He says He is...
 - **EXAMPLE: Lets say that you are the King of a great Kingdom...**
 - And you go and visit your people...
 - Yet they say...

- ◆ Hey, aren't you the brother of the devil
- ◆ You are really powerful and wise, but not our king...
- ◆ Or... The King created You...
- ◆ Or... Quit acting like you are someone special... I am going to throw you in jail...
- ◆ Then they decide to kill you

- **Man has done all this, and continues to this day doing it...**
 - Men want to call Jesus all sorts of things besides who He is...
- **Without the Faith of Believing HE is God... There is no true Faith**
- **Unless He is Honored as He is, He is not Honored**

❖ 4) Us as We Relate to this Man and Jesus (Application)

- 1) We Don't Seek God
- 2) We are Spiritually Lame (Can't walk or help ourselves)
- 3) We are without Hope
- 4) He Knows Our Condition
- 5) He Seeks Us
- 6) He Never Stops Working
- 7) He is Compassionate
- 8) He offers to Heal us by His Word
- 9) We Must Have Faith to Walk
- 10) We Must Honor Jesus as God
- 11) We Are Called to Follow
 - Don't Complain About following His commands... (suffer if you must)
 - Never Grow Weary of doing Good...
 - Galatians 6:9 ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up

❖ Invitation:

- **Remember how at the end of Jesus' conversation with Woman at the Well...**
 - He reveals Himself...
- **And at the end of His time with the people in Samaria**
 - They proclaim who He is...
- **We see it again here....**
 - After He heals the man... He reveals to them who He is...
- **Look at the Last Verse...**
 - ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
 - Truly, Truly...
 - Hears and Believes... No Judgment...
 - Passes from death to life...