

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

13) Healing at the House of Grace

'After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 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'

(John 5:1-4)

'Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 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?" 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"'
(John 5:5-7)

- ✓ **This man had been waiting 38 years**
- ✓ **Why did Jesus choose this man? '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. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does' (John 5:19-20)**

- ✓ **Jesus first asked the man if he wanted to be made whole**
- ✓ **The man had faith in means (the pool) not in the source. He also looked to man, '*I have no man...*' Christ-dependency, not co-dependency, is the goal of authentic Christian ministry**
- ✓ **...and he looked to himself '*...while I am coming...*'. As long as we convince ourselves that we will do better next time, that is a sure sign we have not come to the end of ourselves**

- ✓ **His predicament demonstrates the poverty of the law to save a person**
- ✓ **5 porches – 5 books of the law**
- ✓ **A great multitude, representing those under law, blind, lame and paralyzed – yet waiting for Messiah. The law was powerless to save**
- ✓ **38 years the Jews wandered in the wilderness.**
'And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them' **(Deut.2:14)**
- ✓ **38 centuries waiting for Messiah**

- ✓ **He was at the very edge of healing, but all of his efforts to get into the pool proved unsuccessful**
- ✓ **In the same way, the law leaves us at the very edge of salvation but always falling short. *'One thing you lack...'***
- ✓ ***'...if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law'* (Gal.3:21)**

-

- ✓ *'For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son...'* **(Rom.8:3)**
- ✓ **Bethesda means 'house of grace'. Sheep gate**
- ✓ **Five is also the number of grace – 5 Levitical sacrifices; 5 wounds of Jesus**
- ✓ **Especially abundance of grace - 5 stones for Goliath; 5 loaves; 'Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs' (Gen.43:34); 'He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments' (Gen.45:22)**

'Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath' (John 5:8-9)

Instead of saying 'I'll help you into the water' Jesus gave a commandment, 'Get up; pick up your bed and walk'

The gospel is a command to 'Believe!'
Evangelism is a command to obey the gospel
'And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment' (1 John 3:22-23)

***'But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?"'
(Rom.10:16)***

'Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name' (Rom.1:5)

***'Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith'
(Acts 6:7)***

'For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?'

(1 Pet.1:17)

'...taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ'

(2 Thes.1:8)

Under grace, obedience is believing the gospel

***Jesus commanded him to do 2 things: 1) 'Rise, roll up your bed', and 2) 'Walk'**

***We could not walk to the water to be healed, but now we can 'walk worthy' (2 Pet.1:3)**

***When He said 'rise and walk' the withered sinews and muscles received strength**

***The same gospel that saves us, changes us. He who said 'rise up' to a man who has been paralyzed for 38 years has the right to say 'take up your bed and walk'**

***He who says to us, 'you are washed, you are clean, you are holy, you are righteous', also says, 'therefore offer your members as servants of righteousness unto holiness'**

'The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. 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." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well'

(John 5:10-15)

***The Pharisees didn't want to know who healed the lame man. They wanted to know who told him to carry a bed on the Sabbath**

***Once again, we see that it is religion that will oppose Christ and the gospel most fiercely. Unless we subscribe to their creed and observe their rules of conduct, we will know persecution and eventually ostracism**

***The two most important things are God and people. To the degree that we are self-righteous to that degree we will be void of love for God and people**

***The man responded correctly – He hid behind Christ. He did not argue about the Sabbath**

***Jesus 'found' the man, i.e. He was looking for him**

***He said to him, '*sin no more*'. Just like the woman in adultery**

***First, He says, '*Neither do I condemn you...*' then, '*...go and sin no more.*' Religion reverses this order**

***But the woman had sinned. What sin did this man commit? Unbelief. He now has a choice to obey religion or believe in Jesus**