

## John 5 The Healing at Bethesda

After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porticoes. 3 In these porticoes lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed. 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."

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. 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. 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." 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."

## Jesus' Equality with God

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

## Two Resurrections

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, time is coming and even now has arrived, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

30 “I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. 31 “If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. 32 There is another who testifies about Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.

## Testimony of John the Baptist

33 You have sent messengers to John, and he has testified to the truth. 34 But the testimony I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was the lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

## Testimony of Works

36 But the testimony I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 And the Father who sent Me, He has testified about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 Also you do not have His word remaining in you, because you do not believe Him whom He sent.

## Testimony of the Scripture

39 You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me; 40 and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. 43 I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you accept glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

45 Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's insights and questions

1. For years archaeology questioned if this pool of Bethsaida was an actual place, until they dug up the ruins.
2. This was a place people came to, to receive healing, it was like a hospital.
3. It was a place where sick people sent their faith off to work.
4. Their perception was that an angel had stirred up the water to bring healing to the first person that got in.
5. This was quite something, but was it true or just a fallacy? Or was it reflective of Bath Spa.
6. A man had been laying there sick for thirty-eight years, laying down waiting to get well.
7. Jesus visits that place, the hospital, and went to one man only – why?
8. His question to the man lying down was 'do you want to get well?' Wasn't that obvious Jesus?
9. The man had a ready-made answer for Jesus, 'people,' he said, 'keep pushing in ahead of me'. Was that true?
10. In order to get this man well Jesus says to him 'get up, pick up and walk'.
11. At once, that's immediately, having been made well, the man got up, he picked up and he walked. He did what Jesus said.
12. Unfortunately for Jesus, this was a sabbath day that he worked and the law said, 'no work on the sabbath'.
13. It was the carrying of the palette that was upsetting the religious people. Do you think them short-sighted?
14. Having been harassed by the religious the man blamed Jesus, for fear he would be cast out of the Synagogue.
15. Notice this man had no idea who it was who had made him well. If it had been me, I would have investigated, wouldn't you?
16. Having looked for the man at the hospital once, Jesus finds him again. He tells the man not to sin anymore. Was this sin the cause of his condition? What had he done that made him unwell in the first place?
17. Jesus, having made Himself known by the man, is betrayed by the man, to the religious.

18. Jesus, as a result of doing good, is persecuted, because it is the Sabbath. What do you think about that?
19. Jesus thoughts on the matter can be seen on His response, His justification explanation 'My Father is working and that is where I will be working too.'
20. Having upset them for working on the sabbath, He now comes at them with another problem, He aligns Himself to God when He says, 'the Son only does the Father's will.'
21. Have you been asked by God to get involved in stuff that He is doing?
22. As the Father gives life so will the Son give life. As Christians God wants us to give His life away.
23. Jesus will be the one who will judge us all.
24. Jesus is declaring again and again, He and the Father are as one.
25. It is the believing in this truth that brings us into eternal life.
26. Jesus puts it like this, He says, 'He will escape the judgement and pass into life because of His faith in me and what He has confessed'.
27. When Jesus uses the words 'truly, truly', He is saying I really, really, mean it.
28. Jesus says, 'even the dead who hear will live'. What do you think about that statement?
29. Jesus says, 'Father God has given life to the Son who also has given life to whomsoever'.
30. Jesus is going to be the one who will carry out the judgements at the end of the age.
31. The dead will be raised and judged, some to life and others to eternal judgement and darkness.
32. Jesus says, 'I am taking no initiative, I do not lean on my own understanding, I only obey what the Father is saying to me.'
33. The key to a successful Christian life is to seek the will of God who sent Jesus.
34. 'My own testimony bears little weight' he says, 'but His testimony bears great weight'.
35. Jesus wants the people to be saved, but they had to believe in Him.
36. 'John came and you were drawn to him and his light, but my light is far greater than Johns'.
37. What Jesus does in God's name should be sufficient confirmation that His testimony about Himself is valid.
38. God's testimony of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, 'this is My Son, listen to Him'.
39. Jesus says, 'you haven't seen God's form'. What does that mean?
40. 'Even though scripture speaks of me' said Jesus, 'you are unwilling to believe'.
41. To come in the Father's name, is to come as the Father.
42. 'I will not condemn you before God, but Moses the very one you set your hope in, will condemn you.'