

What Can Jesus About Your Life?

"Miraculous" series- Part 03

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: *What is something important a grandparent or older mentor taught you?*

Let's get on the same page –

In one popular method of sharing the good news (Evangelism Explosion) a question is used to both begin a spiritual conversation and to hopefully make a quick assessment of someone's understanding of Biblical salvation. The question goes something like this: *"If you were to die and stand before God; and He would ask, 'Why should I let you into Heaven?', what would your answer be?"*

What are possible answers offered by people today?

What might be revealed about this person's understanding depending upon their answer?

What is the correct answer to this question? How does scripture support your answer?

In our study today, we will look at the third miracle that the Apostle John records and calls a "sign". Let's discuss this miracle, those involved, and discover what Jesus was trying to teach us about Himself.

Book: John 5:1-17

John 5:1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.

John 5:2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches.

John 5:3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches [waiting for a certain movement of the water,]

John 5:4 [for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had.]

John 5:5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

John 5:6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, He asked him, "Would you like to get well?"

John 5:7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."

John 5:8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

John 5:9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,

John 5:10 so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!"

John 5:11 But he replied, "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

John 5:12 "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded.

John 5:13 The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd.

John 5:14 But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you."

John 5:15 Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

John 5:16 So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules.

John 5:17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."

Let's get into the Word:

Why did people of various ailments and disabilities spend so much of their time at the Pool of Bethesda?

What do you suppose was happening when the "waters were stirred"? Is this a divine-approved plan for healing? If not, why did the people believe that healing could occur? How did Jesus validate or disprove the reality of this belief?

What happens to the body when paralyzes immobilizes someone for 38 years? How could such a body be restored?

It may seem like an unnecessary question, but why do you suppose Jesus asked the diseased man, "Would you like to be well?"

What might Jesus have wanted this man to think about as he contemplated an answer to His question?

What do we learn about Jesus in His performance of this miracle?

- Was faith required on the man's part for his healing to occur?
- What was the response of the man toward Jesus for the gift of healing?
- Why didn't Jesus wait until the next day, after the Sabbath, to heal the man?
- Why did Jesus later seek out the man who had made whole?

It has been said, "While religion is impotent to save people from their sins, it is **powerful to enslave people to its damning system.**" How did the Jewish leaders display their enslavement? How might the man with paralyzes display his enslavement?

What did Jesus mean when He told the man to stop sinning or something worst would happen to him (verse 14)

Based on the Biblical record, what changed about the man's life? Did he miss out on the most important change? Why or why not?

Let's get real (with self!)

What did you learn about God and/or yourself through this miracle?
How would you display this truth on a billboard? Write it on the billboard!

