

John 5 – Miracle on the Sabbath

By Robert Notgrass

The Pool of Bethesda means house of mercy. It was situated near the northeast corner of Old Jerusalem and it was where the multitude of sick, were located. In vs. 3b-4, while these verses are not believed to be part of Scripture, they do describe the popularity of this place and why so many were gathered there (vs. 7). Nevertheless, this was where Jesus went over to heal a man and used this miracle for the basis of a message to the people and for an illustration of the grace of God upon the tragic spiritual state of the nation (Jn. 5:6, 40).

Now, John noted that the man had been ill for thirty-eight years and Jesus knew about the man (Jn. 2:23-24) and asked him if he wanted to be healed. But, instead of saying “Yes!” he began to make excuses. Unfortunately, he had been in this sad condition for so long. Well, the Lord healed him through the power of His spoken word and commanded him to do the very thing he was unable to do, arise. After this, Jesus moved away, not healing anyone else (vs. 13). But there was a problem: Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath Day and did so on purpose (Jn. 9:1-14), which got the attention of the religious leaders because a Jew was prohibited from carrying a burden (vs. 8).

But, in vs. 16-18, the Jewish leaders did not prosecute the man who broke the law; they persecuted Jesus. See, it was the Sanhedrin who was to investigate any new teacher, less a false prophet come in among them. For example, they had looked into the ministry of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:19ff). Now as for Jesus, he had healed a demoniac on the Sabbath (Lk. 4:31-37) and so, the Sanhedrin was already suspicious. And later, Jesus would again challenge the legal traditions of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 12:1-14). So, when they confronted Jesus with His unlawful conduct, He simply replied that He was doing only what His Father was doing and in saying this, he claimed to be equal with God, which is the theme of John (Jn. 1:1). Well, the Jewish leaders now accused Jesus of blasphemy, by which the penalty was death and it is here that the official persecution of Jesus began, ending with him being hated (Jn. 15:18-25) and was crucified while the good deeds that He performed were often ignored by the leaders.

Now, Jesus is about to prove his sonship to the Father (vs. 19-47). First, he claimed to be equal with God (vv. 19-23) and instead of denying their accusation, He endorsed it! Jesus claimed to be one with His Father in His works and so, if healing a man on the Sabbath was a sin, then the Father was to blame! Jesus did nothing of Himself (Jn. 8:28; 10:30). And, not only did the Father show the Son His works and enable Him to do them, but the Father also shared His love (Jn. 5:20; 3:16, 35). Thus, the blind religious leaders could not see what Jesus was doing, because they did not know the Father or the Son. And then on top of that, in vs. 21, Jesus claimed to have power to raise the dead which was another blasphemous thing in the eyes of the Jewish leaders; they gave that power to God alone. But, Jesus was referring to His gift of spiritual life to the spiritually dead (vs. 22-23), which is amplified in vs. 24-29, speaking of all those resurrected and their spiritual conditions.

What a tremendous claim Jesus made to the Pharisees: if you do not honor the Son, you are not honoring the Father! The “religious” people, who say that they worship God, but who deny the deity of Christ, have neither the Father nor the Son! Apart from Jesus Christ, we cannot know the Father, worship the Father, or serve the Father. And as Jesus speaks to them, Jesus introduced His words with the solemn “verily, verily” (Jn. 5:19, 24-25) meaning, “what I am about to say is important!”

Now, Jesus had valid witnesses who support His claim to deity (vv. 30-47). The first was John the Baptist (Jn. 5:30-35), whom the religious leaders had interrogated carefully (Jn. 1:15ff). John knew who Jesus was and faithfully declared what he knew to the people of Israel. John told the people that Jesus was the Lord (Jn. 1:23), the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36), and the Son of God (Jn. 1:34). The second witness was the working of miracles (Jn. 5:36). You will remember that John selected a few of these “signs” to include in his Gospel as proof that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31). Why even Nicodemus had to admit that our Lord’s miracles identified Him as “sent from God” (Jn. 3:2). But, since the Old Testament Law required the testimony of two or three witnesses (Num. 35:30; Deut 17:6; Matt. 18:20), the Lord spoke of a third and final witness, which was the Word of the Father (Jn. 5:37-47). The Jewish people highly revered the written Word of God, particularly the Law that was given through Moses, which is why Jesus told them to search the scriptures (vs. 39). Moses heard God’s voice and saw God’s glory, which we have (2 Pet. 1:12-21).

Now, there was something wrong with the minds of these Jewish leaders: they did not see Christ in their own scriptures (2 Cor. 3:14-18; 4:3-6). But there was also something wrong with their wills: they would not trust in the Savior and because they did not have the Word in their hearts, they did not want Christ in their hearts, which is why they would not come to him (vs. 40). And, this was the lack of love in their hearts (Jn. 5:42) and they were not saved (vs. 29, 44). Furthermore their attitude toward God’s Word hindered their faith, but so also did their attitude toward themselves and one another because they loved honor from men (vs. 41).

So, our Lord closed this penetrating sermon by warning the Jewish leaders that Moses, whom they honored, would be their judge, not their savior (vs. 45-46). The very Scriptures that they used to defend their religion would one day bear witness against them. The Jews knew what Moses wrote, but they did not really believe what he wrote, showing us that it is one thing to have scriptures in our hands and our heads, but quite another thing to have them in our hearts. The witness of John the Baptist, the divine miracles, and the Word of God all unite to declare that Jesus Christ is indeed One with the Father and the very Son of God.

Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as “DRF” or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of June.

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Owen Whittington 5/28

Phyllis Caldwell 6/9

Tammy Sieber 6/2

Reed Rohr 6/13

Kyle Buckingham 6/7

Evelyn Lam 6/14

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Happy Anniversary!

Matthew & Chelsea Wilson 5/27

Bryan & Amie Allen 6/1

Tom & Patsy Muter 6/10

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Brief Men’s meeting after AM services today.

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*Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort
THIS week on Thursday, May 25th @ 6:45pm*

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Please come help do some Spring cleaning at the building.
We will meet to work THIS Saturday, May 27th @ 9:00am.

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Join us at our Family Life Workshop on June 24-25:
Parenting in the Digital Age
Presented by a team from the Lebanon Rd. Church of Christ in TN.

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Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	May 21, 2023 AM	May 21, 2023 PM	May 28, 2023 AM
Greeter	Dustin Desarro	Rick Ferris	Tom Muter
Announcements	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Owen Whittington
Song Leading	Owen Whittington	Jason Bang	Duane Kemp
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tim Bang	Tom Muter	Owen Whittington
Lord's Supper Comments	Jason Bang	Owen Whittington	Tim Bang
Scripture Reading	Rick Ferris	Duane Kemp	Seth Arrell
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Duane Kemp	Chris McGiffin	Jason Bang

This week's Bible Verse

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
 In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer,
 I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*So That We Might Belong to Him*

“Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.” Romans 7:4

**Offering Meditation**

*Your Gift to God is Noticed by God*

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - Parkinson's
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
- *Sally Westover (Carrie Thompson's mom) - health, comfort, strength for the family/caregivers
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision and dementia
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Caroline Stine - health
- *Tim Bang - health/tests

- *Norma Murphy (Dustin Desarro's aunt) - is recovering from a fall
- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - waiting tests results from a bone scan and tumor marker

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

| Sunday, May 14 |    | Wednesday, May 17 |            |
|----------------|----|-------------------|------------|
| Bible Classes  | 32 | Bible Classes     | 24         |
| AM Attendance  | 37 |                   |            |
| PM Attendance  | 24 | Contribution      | \$2,160.00 |

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



**May 21, 2023**

**Worship Times:**

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd  
 Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!  
 If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.