

Episode 1-22 The Waters of Bethesda

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. The miracles John presents are signs pointing to the great premise of his book: that we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Now we examine the third of these signs and its lessons.

III. John 5:1-4. The waters of Bethesda.

- A. Verse 1. A “feast of the Jews.” Don’t know which one. The Lord attends.
- B. Verse 2. The word “is” here is our greatest internal proof that John was written before 70 AD. Sheep gate=bring in sheep. Bethesda = House of Kindness, aptly named, see verse 4. Five porches, five number of grace.
- C. Verse 3. Many handicapped folk waiting at this pool.
- D. Verse 4. An angel would stir the water, the first in would be healed.
 - 1. Some manuscripts do not contain this verse. This makes nonsense of verses 3&7. A copyist probably found unlikely, deleted. Rev. 22:19.
 - 2. Seems strange, but not in that day. God’s work with Israel demanded constant use of His power. Numbers 5:11-31, Exodus 28:30.
 - 3. Not short periods of miracles, but constant power put forth!

IV. John 5:5-16. The lame man at Bethesda: the third sign.

- A. Verse 5. A long time! Placed all his hopes in this pool.
- B. Verse 6. Third sign corresponds with the sixth (John 9:1-6). Both healings were unsolicited. The Lord approaches the man, not the other way around.
- C. Verse 7. What a predicament! He was no fool. If the pool didn’t work, he would have left. All his faith is placed on the pool.
- D. Verse 8. The man had no faith at all in the Lord before this healing.
- E. Verse 9. Jesus is Christ (Messiah) Isaiah 53:4. By a word! “A” Sabbath.
- F. Verse 10. Jews the leaders. Jeremiah 17:21-22 twisted to make this rule. Talmud. Sabb. 6 a). Could not carry the thing to bring rest on day of rest!
- G. Verse 11. Justifies his actions on the word of the Man Who healed him.
- H. Verse 12. More concerned with their exaggerated law than a healing!
- I. Verse 13. He had not really paid attention to the Lord at the pool.
- J. Verse 14. Apparently, his lameness caused by a sin committed. May have been a miraculous occurrence, or not. Warning: worse next time!
- K. Verse 15. He informs the Jews! Not gratitude. Afraid of them? Thought the pool would have healed him anyway? Did not take the warning seriously!
- L. Verse 16. The beginning of the Jerusalem leaders’ opposition. Remember they were honestly considering Him in chapter 3. He threatens their power now.

V. Conclusion. The pool of Bethesda shows God’s kindness. The man there was looking to the pool, and totally missed the Lord. Do we ever get so distracted by the things of God that we miss the Lord’s presence? The Jews cared more about their rules than anything else. Do we get distracted in this way? The man who was healed informed on the One Who healed Him. Are we loyal to the One Who saved us, or would we turn on Him out of fear? Finally, do we believe, or does the truth pass over us, like the man at the pool? Remember the point of John! Will we believe?