
The Healing Of A Crippled Man

John 5:1-16

John is the only one of the four **Gospel** writers that records this event. It is one of seven recorded miracles that took place on the **Sabbath**. In this particular miracle, **Jesus** came among a pitiful multitude to bring healing to one man in particular. **THIS MIRACLE IS A PORTRAIT OF THE GRACE, MERCY, AND POWER OF THE LORD TOWARD SINFUL AND HELPLESS MAN!**

I. THE DETAILS OF THE MIRACLE

① **The Time And Place Of The Miracle:**

The miracle occurred during *“a feast of the Jews” (verse 1)*. There were seven feasts (*Feast of the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of First-Fruits, Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Feast of the Trumpets, Feast of the Atonement, and the feast of Tabernacles*), given to the **Jews** to point them to, and prepare them for **Christ**. Each of these *“feasts”* speaks something of the **redemptive work of Christ**. **John** does not record which *“feast”* was being observed at this time. **John** also records that this particular miracle occurred on the **Sabbath** day (**verse 10**). The **place** of the miracle was in **Jerusalem (verses 1-2)**, at *“a pool.....called.....Bethesda” (verse 2)*. It is also recorded in **verse 2** that this *“pool”* was *“by the sheep market” (gate)*. This is the gate through which the sacrificial animals were brought to the **Temple** and was to the north of the **Temple**. It is also recorded in **verse 2** that around this *“pool”* were *“five porches” (covered places)*.

② **A Multitude Described:**

John records in **verse 3** *“In these (the five porches, or covered places), lay a great multitude of impotent folk (weak and feeble, disabled by disease), of blind (sightless), halt (lame, crippled), withered” (paralysis)*. These are an **ailing** people, **debilitated** by disease. These *“were waiting for the moving (stirring), of the water” (verse 3)*. The reason that they are waiting at the pool is given in **verse 4**. This *“great multitude”* is **disabled, broken down, and wrecked**. Besides this, they are **desperate** as seen in the fact that they *“were waiting for the moving of the water”* **THIS IS A VERY SAD AND PITIFUL SCENE!** This *“great multitude”* laying on these *“five porches”* vividly portray **fallen** and **unsaved** man, in his **lost** and **ruined** condition. This *“great multitude”* laying on these *“five porches”* are representative of the fact that **fallen man is disabled as a result of sin, and are powerless to save themselves!** Fallen man in and of himself cannot **see** or **enter** the **kingdom of God (John 3:3-7)**, cannot **hear, understand, and**

discern spiritual things (**John 8:43; I Corinthians 2:14**), cannot **believe** (**John 12:39-40**), cannot be **subject** to **God** (**Romans 8:7**), cannot **please God** (**Romans 8:9**), and cannot **come** to **God** (**John 6:44**). **MAN NEEDS THE INTERVENTION OF GOD!**

3 **Jesus Arrives For A Certain Individual:**

Attention is drawn to **“a certain man”** (**verse 5**). This particular man **“had an infirmity (disability), thirty and eight years”** (**verse 5**). He is referred to as **“the impotent man”** (**verse 7**). That is, he was so **feeble**, and **weak**, that he was absolutely **powerless** and **unable!** He was an invalid, a **crippled**, unable to **stand**, and **walk!** **HE HAD BEEN THIS WAY FOR 38 YEARS!** **Jesus** came among this multitude of the **sick**, the **diseased**, the **frail**, the **infirm**, the **weak**, the **blind**, the **paralyzed**, and the **crippled to bring healing** to this **“certain man”** **Jesus** went to this **“certain man”** not because of anything in him, but simply because of **grace!** **THE FACT THAT JESUS WENT TO THIS MAN IS A PICTURE OF JESUS CHOOSING HIM!** **John** records in **verse 6** that **“Jesus saw (with purpose and intent), him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case”** **JESUS IS SEEN COMING TO AND CARING FOR THE SINNER!** **Jesus** knew everything there was to know about this man, yet **Jesus** reached out to him anyway! **WHAT A PICTURE OF GRACE!** He literally and in person came to where this man was! **THIS IS GRACE!**

4 **What Jesus Did:**

○ *Jesus Personally And Directly Dealt With This Man:*

The One who could **bring life to his withered limbs, and bring healing to his life** **CAME TO HIM AND MINISTERED TO HIM!** Notice: **“Jesus saw him”** (**verse 6**), **“he saith unto him”** (**verse 6**), **“Jesus saith unto him”** (**verse 8**).

○ *Jesus Drew The Man's Attention To His Desperate Condition:*

While this man was in a condition and state of **disability, debilitation, ruin, and helplessness**, **Jesus** asked this man **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** (**verse 6**). **THE PURPOSE OF THIS QUESTION IS FOR THE MAN TO REALIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIS CONDITION!** The man's answer (**verse 7**) reveals the man's sense of his **helplessness**, and **need!** The man's answer also reveals the man's utter **disappointment** in his life, and a sense of **hopelessness!** **BEFORE THE LORD SAVES A SINNER, THE SINNER IS ALWAYS BROUGHT TO SEE HIS GREAT NEED!**

○ *Jesus Commanded This Man To Do Three Things That He Could Not Do:*

“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk” (**verse 8**). **Jesus** said to this man who was **powerless;** **“Stand up, pick up your bed, and walk”** This man could do

none of these in and of himself, but HE BELIEVED THAT THE ONE WHO SPOKE TO HIM, WOULD ENABLE HIM!

⑤ **The Miraculous Healing:**

John records in **verse 9** “*And immediately the man was made (an action performed upon him), whole*” This is the equivalent to being “*quicken*ed” (**Ephesians 2:1, 5**). HE HAS BEEN RAISED UP! As a result, he was able to stand, he was able to bend down and pick up his bed, and he was able to walk!

II. THE EFFECT OF THIS MIRACLE

① **The Effect Upon The Jews:**

The miracle was one of open manifestation. This is obvious from what is written in **verse 10**. The **Jews** saw this man who had been for **38 years crippled**, and now he is walking and carrying his bed without any difficulty! They were greatly puzzled and sought to discredit whatever had taken place (**verse 10**). They began to question this man (**verses 10-12**), and when it was revealed that this man’s healing was the work of **Jesus**, they were enraged and manifested their hatred and malice toward the Person of **Christ** [**verses 15-16**].

② **The Effect Upon The Healed Man:**

○ *The Man’s Way Of Living Was Outwardly Changed:*

He no longer laid on his bed at the “*pool*” called “*Bethesda*” “*waiting for the moving of the water*” He was now walking and carrying his bed! THERE WAS A MANIFEST DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY THAT THIS MAN NOW LIVED!

○ *The Man Felt A Debt Of Gratitude Toward The One Who Had Healed Him:*

When the **Jews** said to him “*It is the sabbath day; it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed*” (**verse 10**), the man simply replied, (no doubt somewhat puzzled that these **Jews** would find something wrong about what had taken place in his life), “*He that made me whole, (he realized that he did not make himself whole, he realized that this was not his own doing), the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk*” (**verse 11**). IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO HIM TO OBEY THE ONE WHO MADE HIM WHOLE!

○ *The Man Had A Desire To Worship:*

Jesus found the man who had been miraculously healed and delivered from the bondage of his past life in the **temple** [**verse 14**]. After this man had been healed, HE WALKED TO THE TEMPLE, NO DOUBT WITH A HEART FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAISE!

○ *This Man Had A Desire To Exalt Christ And Tell Others Of Him:*

When the **Jews** first questioned this man about who it was that healed him (**verse 12**), he did not have an answer for them (**verse 13**), but after **Jesus** revealed Himself more fully to this man (**verse 14**), he with a heart full of **gratitude, praise, and zeal** went and *“told the Jews that it was **Jesus**, which had made him whole”* (**verse 15**). This man who could now walk, this man whose life and way of living had been drastically changed, now knew *“that it was **Jesus**”* AND HE COULD NOT BUT SPEAK HIS NAME!

JESUS WAS EVERYTHING THAT THIS MAN NEEDED, AND HE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS MAN’S LIFE! This man went from **surviving** to **thriving** AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF JESUS! When **Jesus** found this man in the **temple**, He assured him *“thou art made whole”* and He instructed him *“sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”* (**verse 14**). These words need to be viewed in the light of **I Peter 4:1-4**. Though the **saved** individual cannot forfeit **God’s grace**, by something they do, they may bring upon themselves something far worse than any infirmity of the body, such as a loss of fellowship with **God!** Those who have been made **spiritually whole** should live for the One who made them whole!
