

New Testament Church – Sunday, March 1, 2026  
Jeff Tonello - John 5:1-17 “The Pool of Bethesda”

- I. Other 3 Gospels are considered Synoptic.
  - A. Many of the same stories
  - B. Similar sequencing to the stories
  - C. Wording is very similar.
  
- II. Stands in contrast to John’s Gospel
  - A. whose contents is largely distinct.
  - B. John gives insight into the person of Jesus and His works.
  - C. Story of the paralytic only appears in the Gospel of John
  - D. 2/3 of John encompasses last week of Jesus’ life on earth.
  
- III. John youngest disciple
  - A. Born 6AD.
  - B. Only disciple likely present during crucifixion.
  - C. Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to John likely until her death.
  - D. John and Mary having time to discuss the life of Jesus.
  
- IV. Chapter 5 opens with Jesus traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast.
  - A. Not specific feast, Passover, Pentecost, Feast of the Tabernacles
  - B. Male 20 years and older were required to attend.
  
- V. V. 2 describes a sheep gate and a pool.
  - A. Significance of the sheep gate, brought through for sacrifice.
  - B. Pool is known as the pool of Bethesda, meaning house of Mercy.
  - C. Sheep were washed in the pool, inspected for any blemish then were brought into the temple to be sacrificed.
  - D. Also, many who made the long journey for the Jewish feast also bathed in these pools cleansing themselves before entering the Temple.
  - E. Significance of Proximity of the pool and the sheep gate where Jesus performs this miracle, foreshadowing Him becoming the final sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
  
- VI. Nehemiah chapter 3. (689)
  - a. 445 BC restoration begins after being destroyed 150 plus yrs. ago.
  - b. Assigned to different parts, High Priest were responsible for the sheep gate.
  - c. Jesus is our High Priest, the ultimate sacrificial lamb, and the door or the gate to salvation.
  
- VII. Read V3-V.5 Key points.
  - a. Describes multitude, sick, lame, blind, withered.
  - b. Waiting for the stirring of the waters.
  - c. First one in gets healed (Ancient lottery)
  - d. V4. Talks about an angel stirring of the waters.
  - e. Man, Ill for 38 Years. Israel’s stagnation of wandering the desert.
  
- VIII. V.6 – V 9 Key Points (**PICTURE**)
  - a. V6. Question of do you want to be made well?
  - b. Count the cost, leaving the old life behind, not turning back.

- c. V7. Makes his case for not being healed, He focused on the barriers the man is looking at a natural solution, the stirring of the natural waters vs. to the living waters that Jesus can provide.
- d. V8. **The spoken word of Jesus** “get up, pick up your pallet and walk.”
- e. Immediately the man rose and walked.
- f. None of the multitude responded. Their focus was still on the natural waters.

IX. Confronted by the Jewish leaders.

- a. Unlawful to carry your pallet on the Sabbath.
- b. Pride blinded the eyes, not concerned of this man’s healing.
- c. Focus on their man-made laws.
- d. Man at first tries to explain how the healing occurred, but unsure who He was.

X. V. 14 Jesus finds the man in the Temple.

- a. Man, likely a Jew, so he proceeded to the Temple to give thanks to God for his healing.
- b. Sin no more, Jesus is now dealing with the spirit of the man, showing that his healing yes, a miracle, but temporal, but the spirit of man which lives for eternity. Jesus is not merely concerned with healing one’s body as He is in healing one’s soul from sin.
- c. Disease or calamity not always directly related to one’s sin. **John 9:1-3**

XI. V.15-17 After the encounter with Jesus in the Temple

- a. Tells the Jewish leaders it was Jesus who healed him.
- b. Began persecuting Jesus and planning his ultimate demise.
- c. V.17 Read; Jesus declares Himself equal to God the Father. He is the Lord of the Sabbath.

Conclusion:

Question asked of the paralytic can be asked to us today, “Do you want to be made well?” To be made well is to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the one who conquered sin and death. He became the only door or gate that one must enter thru to spend eternity with the Triune God.

Just like the multitude waiting for the stirring of the waters, neither one of them wanted to miss their opportunity of healing.

However, there is a greater life-changing opportunity that awaits some today. It is summed up by the Apostle Paul in 2Corinthians 6:2.

If God is stirring the waters of your heart today, do not let the opportunity pass, for the Lord declares this is the day of salvation.