

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #46
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

- John 5:1 **After this** there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- The “after this” phrase points to a period of 9 months between the end of chapter 4 and John 5:1.
- And although Jesus is north in Galilee he went “up” to Jerusalem.



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Event	Scripture	Year	Mth/Day
John the Baptist Begins Preaching	John 1:19-28	26	20-Apr
The Baptism of Jesus at the River Jordan	John 1:32-34	26	08-Sep
Jesus Turns Water to Wine in Cana	John 2:1-11	26	23-Oct
Jesus Goes to Capernaum with Family/Disciples	John 2:12	26	30-Oct
Jesus Goes to Jerusalem For 27 AD Passover	John 2:13	27	06-Apr
First Time Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2:14-17	27	25-Apr
Nicodemus Comes to Jesus at Night	John 3:1-21	27	01-May
John Tells How Jesus is More Important Than Him	John 3:27-36	27	07-May
Jesus Departs for Galilee by Way of Samaria	John 4:3-4	27	08-May
Jesus and Disciples Arrive in Samaria	John 4:5-6	27	11-May
Jesus Speaks with Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well	John 4:5-38	27	11-May
Jesus is Welcomed in Galilee	John 4:45	27	07-Jul
Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son-Second Sign in Cana	John 4:46-54	27	10-Jul
Jesus Heals Paralytic on Sabbath	John 5:1-16	28	26-Apr

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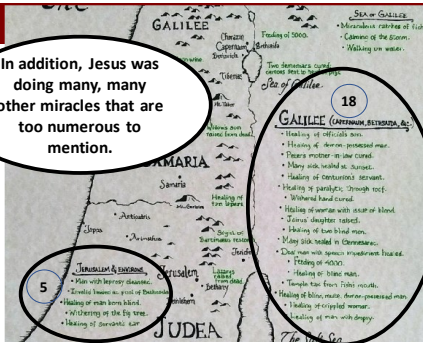
Jesus' Public Ministry



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In addition, Jesus was doing many, many other miracles that are too numerous to mention.



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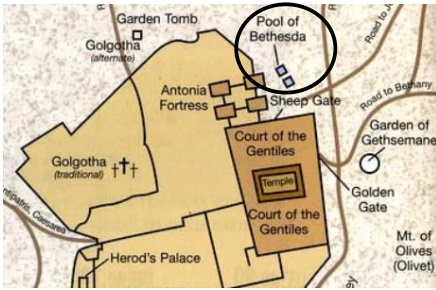
The Gospel of John

• John 5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

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The Sheep Gate



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Pool of Bethesda



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- The “pool of Bethesda” – around this pool (probably a large artesian well) lay many people described as invalids.
- There was a particular man who had been stationed there for 38 years hoping that one day he could be the first into the pool after the waters were stirred.
- Legend had it that an angel appeared there from time to time who stirred the waters in such a way that the first person in after the stirring was healed.

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Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

ESV

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic⁶² called Bethesda,⁶³ which has five roofed colonnades.³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.⁶⁴ ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."

² Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. **KJV**

³ In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

⁴ For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

⁵ And a certain man was there, which had an

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WHY IS JOHN 5:4 MISSING FROM MOST BIBLES?

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I know what you are thinking – if that error persisted for centuries how do we know there are not many other such errors in the Bible? Answer: Textual criticism would have revealed any other New Testament discrepancies.

I know of zero disputes about the most important truths in the Bible. I also have the default position of always assuming the Bible is correct on all subjects it speaks to— that is a gift from God!

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- Another place we see something similar is in chapter 16 of Mark’s gospel. Most of the modern translations have brackets of one sort or the other around verses 9 -20 because the oldest manuscripts did not have those verses.
- “Textual Criticism” the process of comparing various old manuscripts one to another, is how we know Mark 16:9-20 were most likely added later by a scribe.

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- John 5:3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.
- Of all the candidates for healing on that porch Jesus singles out just one of them to be healed.
- Does it not make us wonder why not choose them all – he had healed many others and will heal many more so why just this man on this day?

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- We are not told in this text, nor are we told anywhere else in the Bible why he chose just this one man at Bethesda, so under those conditions we are free to guess. ☺
- Here is my guess – Jesus is telling all who will ever live in this world that there will be some who are just not selected for healing in this world. (he chose just one of many)
- So, if you have buried someone you love who, by your standards died too early, you can look at all the others at the pool that day and empathize.

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- As a matter of fact, as we will see later in our text, of all the people at the pool that day this man may have been our last pick for healing.
- Jesus walks through the many who were disabled at the pool and passes over them for reasons known only to him.
- He makes no apologies to the others for his choice and goes on as though this is normal behavior for one with unlimited power to heal.

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- If we can decouple our minds from our emotions of those at the pool that day, we would see that while they were not all healed that day, they could all be well one day.
- To be a bit calloused, the sick at the pool that day were part of a large and graphic object lesson very much like our unhealed loved ones.
- God can be glorified in his healing, and he can be glorified in his restraint – if we get to participate, and do not cry “foul” when he does not choose us, we glorify him.

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Jesus gives no reason for his selection of just one of the many who were desperately ill at the pool. You can rest assured that his choice is the right one, and for those of us who know him we will also say, “thank you Jesus for choosing just one for had you chosen them all, something less than your sovereign will would have been done.”

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- John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “**Do you want to be healed?**”
- The question is not as odd as you think – it is akin to having someone stop by your house and you saying, “would you like a cup of tea”? (may I serve you?)
- Since Jesus knew the hearts of all people, the question is not one to acquire information – the man does not answer him but starts to tell why he has not been healed.

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- And this is where we can see the damaging effects of legends and religious superstitions.
- In all probability the legend got started when someone with something like arthritis soaked in the warm spring waters and was able to move better afterward. (that is a guess)
- Were it not for the superstition, in 38 years time the man could have dragged himself into the pool and may have benefited from the warmth and perhaps minerals in the water.

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- John 5:7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”
- I do not wish to come down hard on this man, but you would think in 38 years time he would have given up on just laying there waiting for help.
- He is a mini lesson in avoidance of responsibility – he was physically challenged, but his reason for being where he was amounted to “no one will help me”.

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- John 5:8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.
- As with all his miracles there was no pomp and circumstance – just "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." and he did!
- A common thread through Jesus' miracles is, with one exception, they were all instantaneous and complete for the rest of the healed person's natural life.

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Mark 8:22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

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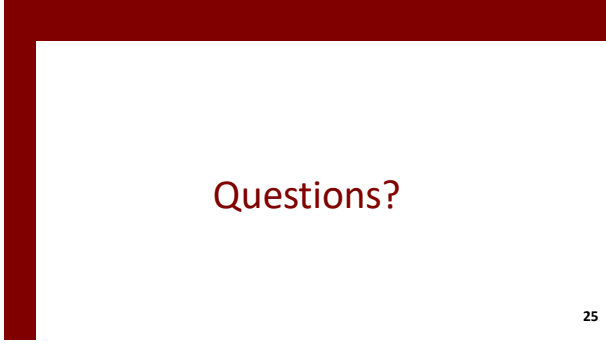
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- We look at this healing that needed a second action on Jesus' part and wonder, "why?".
- We know he didn't make a mistake and we know it wasn't due to a lack of power.
- The disciples had some confusion as to "is Jesus to die or not" - just as the blind man's sight was clearer with more exposure to Jesus so too will the spiritual sight be made better.

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Questions?
