

JOHN 5:1-15

JESUS HEALS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralysed. 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

7 “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

8 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

11 But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

12 So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

CONTEXT

Text Begins: Sometime later

Previous Passage: Jesus heals official's son

The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. 51 While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. 54 This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee

Jesus then travels from above Galilee, all the way down to Jerusalem (3-5 days walk)

- Timeline becomes somewhat unclear...

THEN

What motivates Jesus to head to Jerusalem (for a festival)?

- Because he is a Jew
- following tradition and custom

Once inside Jerusalem, what motivates Jesus to head to the Pool of Bethesda?

- Open Discussion (text does not say)

Why does John give such a detailed picture of the structure surrounding the pool?

- Historical evidence, location and time Jesus was there
- So people can go validate the story themselves in person

Finds a great number of Disabled people surrounding the pool. Why?

- believed when the waters stirred, the first into the pool would be healed

What does it mean to be an invalid?

- Def: a person made weak or disabled by illness or injury

How long had this man been at the pool?

- 38 years (been an invalid for longer, not a young man)

Jesus learns of the condition, what does he ask the man?

- "Do you want to get well"

Why does Jesus ask this question (Rude, Judgemental, or Compassionate)?

- v.6 "When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time"
- 38 years, and no one has tried to help him into the water?
- 38 years, and he has had no opportunity to hop into the water?

What does Jesus really see about this man's situation?

- Open Discussion (the man wants to remain sick)

How does the man respond to Jesus' question?

- "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred."
- "While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."
- EXCUSES...

Does the man want to be healed?

- Open Discussion (No)
- Begging and no responsibility has worked for 38 years, does not want the burden of change and expectation

How does Jesus then respond to these statements?

- "Pick up your mat and walk!"

Why does Jesus call the man to stand and be healed?

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- Perhaps he is giving the man no excuses, removing the hurdles...?

When the Pharisees learn of this miracle what do they focus on?

- Sabbath, man carrying his mat
- Completely disregard God's power working in this man life

Later, Jesus finds the man at the temple – what does this tell us about the man?

- Knew God had healed him
- Feared God to some extent, was a practicing Jew

What does Jesus tell the man?

- v.14 **“See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”**

Why would Jesus say **“See, you are well again.”**

- Open Discussion (I told you so?)
- Coupled with the statement about sinning, makes his change about the heart (not just physical)?

Why would the man respond by telling the Pharisees?

- Open Discussion (No Heart change?)

NOW**Why is this story in the bible?**

- Open Discussion (Teach us something... but what?)

Who are we as an audience in this story?

- The invalid (our sin and worldliness cripples us and our hearts)

What does it look like for Jesus to find us waiting by the Pool of Bethesda?

- Everyone can see we are broken, waiting for an opportunity to get well

What are some ways we sit by the Pool waiting for 38 years?

- Understand our need for change, see the way to do it but instead keep making EXCUSES
- Enjoy our life of no expectations... even though deep down we are deeply broken by it (missing out)

What would we say today if Jesus asked us **“Do you want to get well”?**

- Open Discussion (time to process)

What do our actions say our response to Jesus would be across the last 2 months?

- Open Discussion
- Share Personally about the excuses we make (Compromises, Selfishness and Doubts)

How does Jesus tell us to get up and take our mat?

- Baptism, despite our sin... he makes it so easy for us to be reconciled to God

APPLICATION**The man saw Jesus as an authority, but not his saviour... how can we do this with Jesus?**

- Respect him and his Morals... but neglect to follow him and live it out

How can we remove the excuses and respond to Jesus' call to be spiritually well?

- Speak about the excuses win your life (Depth)?
- See the ways we justify our Sin and the things that separate us from God

How can we also connect to Jesus' love in this passage?

- understand Jesus' patience with the man initially... he is gentle even when the man makes excuses...
- Jesus helps offers his help to the man, in the hope he will respond... Jesus also hopes for us (and our friends)

When we are well with God, what are we able to accomplish?

- The mission, be filled with purpose... rather than sitting aimlessly by a pool of water waiting
- Have visions for our lives, and work towards a closer relationship with God

Time to Stop making EXCUSES and let JESUS make us well so we can be CLOSE TO GOD

- live a changed life
- be an example to others of how Jesus repairs our lives and makes them whole