

January 15, 2023

Pick Up Your Mat

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters

John 5:1-16

Opening Thoughts

- John 5-8 is the 2nd section of John and deals with the rising opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ on the part of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. Jerusalem would become a hostile environment for our Lord to travel. Zealous Jews would desire a coup to make Him king, and religious rulers would seek ways to murder Him.
 - **John 6:66**, *After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.*
 - **John 7:1**, *After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.*
 - **John 7:25–26**, *Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? **26** And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?”*
 - **John 8:37**, *I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.*
- How does God heal? {Bethesda (John 5:2-3) – “house of outpourings” or “house of mercy.”}{Just outside of St. Anne’s}
 - God’s Promise – Laws, commandments, & principles to extend life (Exodus 15:26)
 - God’s Provision – God gives doctors & medicine (Colossians 4:14 & Ezekiel 47:12)
 - God’s Intervention – God divinely intervenes (James 5:13-20)
 - God’s Grace – “My grace is sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 - God’s Ultimate Design – “Heaven” (Revelation 21:4)

I. The Unprecedented Miracles of Jesus (John 5:1-3)

- A. Healing the Sick
 - 1. **Matthew 14:14**, *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*
 - 2. **Mark 3:9–10**, *And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, **10** for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.*
 - 3. **Matthew 9:20–22**, *And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, **21** for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” **22** Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.*
- B. Casting out demons.
 - 1. **Matthew 9:33**, *And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”*
- C. Raised the Dead
 - 1. Jesus Raises the Widow’s Son (Luke 7:11-17, **Luke 7:14–15**, *Then he came up and touched the bier, And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” **15** And the dead man sat up and began to speak,)*
 - 2. Jesus raised the Ruler’s daughter (**Matthew 9:23–25**, *And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house ... **24** he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. **25**, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.)*
- D. The Authentication of Jesus
 - 1. **Matthew 11:2–5**, *Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” **4** And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5** the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.*

II. The Hopelessness of the False Religion and Superstition (John 5:5-6a)

- A. He spent 38 years as an invalid
 - 1. Paralytic & Dependent on others
 - 2. Helpless to react – Those surrounding the pool at Bethesda resemble man’s spiritual condition.

- a) Blind (**John 3:3**, *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*)
 - b) Lame (**John 6:44**, *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day".*
 - c) Paralyzed **Romans 7:18**, *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*
- B. He had no expectation of God (John 5:7,13)
- 1. Jesus saw him, the man never saw Jesus (John 5:6,7)
 - 2. The man focused with anticipation on the water moving, rather than God. (Tradition & Superstition)
- C. The World dispenses
- 1. False Doctrine.
 - 2. False Hope. *"One of the cruelest lies of contemporary "faith healers" is that the people they fail to heal are guilty of sinful unbelief, a lack of faith, or a "negative confession.""*¹

III. The Healing of the Savior (John 5:6b-9)

- A. The Question, *"Do you want to be healed?"* (John 5:6)
- B. The Response (5:7) (Downcast; Discouraged; Defeated; Disillusioned; and Self-Deceived)
- C. The Words
 - 1. Get up – Arise; stand in position; stand respectfully before; remain standing; be motionless
 - 2. Take up – take away; pick up.
 - 3. Walk – walk; go; behave; lead the life; practice
- D. The Miracle (5:8) (It was unmerited; without faith; instantaneous; unconditional; followed by faith.)
- E. The Obedience (John 5:9)

IV. The Conspiracy of the Committee (John 5:10-13)

- A. The Reaction of the Rulers (John 5:10)
 - 1. The Old Testament command, **Exodus 20:10**, *But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.*
 - a) Jeremiah 17:19-27; esp **Jeremiah 17:21**, *Thus says the Lord: Take care for the sake of your lives, and do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.*
 - b) Nehemiah 13:15
 - 2. The context is within business, marketing, and earning income.
- B. The Error of false religion (**Mark 7:8**, *You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."*)
 - 1. False religion wants rules more than grace.
 - 2. False religion wants merit more than mercy.
 - 3. False religion wants confusion more than simplicity.
 - 4. False religion wants approval more than pardon.
 - 5. False religion wants dominance more than service.
- C. The Unknown Healer (John 5:12-13)

V. The Conversion of the Unlikely (John 5:14-16)

- A. The Instruction of the Savior (John 5:14)
 - 1. You are well
 - 2. Sin no more
 - a) *... the man had great sins on his conscience. The bodily suffering these sins had caused him Jesus had removed. Here lay the grace of pardon—by far the best thing in the miracle for the man personally. This Jesus now impresses upon the man's soul. "Sin no more" involves that Jesus pardons the man's past sins; for if the great sins of the past still stand against this man, what would abstinence from future open sins avail?"*²
- B. The Testimony of the Converted (John 5:15)
 - 1. Compare to John 5:13.
- C. The Anger of the Religious (John 5:16)

¹ MacArthur, John F., Jr. *John 1–11*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 2006.

² Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. John's Gospel*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961.

VI. Why Did the Rulers Feel Threatened?

- A. Control - Jesus and His message were a threat to their political power (John 6:15, "*take him by force to make him king*" John 19:12, "*...the Jews cried out [to Pilate], 'If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend.'*")
- B. Authority - Jesus and His teaching were a correction, at the least, if not a complete rejection of the teaching of the Jewish rulers (Matthew 23, "*Woe to you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites...*")
- C. Money - Jesus and His leadership were a rebuke of the ruler's greed for financial gain (**Luke 20:46-47**, "*Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **47** who devour widows' houses...*")