

5/26/2019

## **The Compassionate God**

**John 5:1-15** <sup>1</sup>Some time later there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool with five covered colonnades, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda. <sup>3</sup>On these walkways lay a great number of the sick, the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and realized that he had spent a long time in this condition, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?" <sup>7</sup>"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am on my way, someone else goes in before me." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk." <sup>9</sup>Immediately the man was made well, and he picked up his mat and began to walk. Now this happened on the Sabbath day, <sup>10</sup>so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "This is the Sabbath! It is unlawful for you to carry your mat." <sup>11</sup>But he answered, "The man who made me well told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" <sup>12</sup>"Who is this man who told you to pick it up and walk?" they asked. <sup>13</sup>But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while the crowd was there. <sup>14</sup>Afterward, Jesus found the man at the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you." <sup>15</sup>And the man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. (BSB)

**John 5:3-4** <sup>3</sup>In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. <sup>4</sup>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. (KJV)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. This **event** happened in Jerusalem at an unknown feast. V.1
- B. There was a ceremonial pool there called **Bethesda**.
- C. The **sick** lay on the walkways outside the pool. V.3
- D. The newer **versions** do not have part of verse 3 and all of verse 4 in them because they were not a part of the original gospel. These words were added in by a scribe centuries after the gospel was written.
- E. There was a belief that an **angel** would stir the water and only the first one in would receive healing. V.4

- F. One of those lying there was a man who had been unable to walk for **38 years**. V. 5
  - G. Jesus asked the man a very important **question**. V. 6
  - H. The man could never **compete** against those who were faster and more connected than him. V. 7
  - I. Jesus healed the man with a **simple** command. V.8
  - J. The Jews were **upset** because the man was carrying his mat on a Sabbath. V.10
  - K. The healed man **blamed** the man who had told him to get up and carry his mat. (He didn't know that it was Jesus.) V.11-13
  - L. Jesus **confronted** the man regarding his sin. V.14
  - M. The man **betrayed** Jesus and told the Jews that it was Jesus who told him to violate the Sabbath. V. 15
- II. What can we learn from this passage?
- A. Many are held **captive** by false belief.
  - B. We need to see value in multiple **versions** of Scripture. Remember that the Bible was not written in English!
  - C. Not everything **supernatural** is healthy or godly!
  - D. **God** heals!
  - E. We must **ask** people if they really want to get well. Many say they want to get healed but the price may be more than they want to pay.
  - F. We must guard against a **legalistic** attitude when God does something outside our comfort zone.
  - G. Our **loyalties** must be to God over all others.