The Gospel of John  
**5.1—A GIFT OF HEALING – JOHN 5:1-20**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 5**

**INTRODUCTION**

Whenever we read the gospels and watch Jesus in action, we should be intentional observe Him from two perspectives. First, is how we might receive from Him; His teachings and His ministry. But we should also watch Him to see how He teaches and ministers because He has called each of us to assume His ministry to people around us. You can find that in many things that Jesus said, and it’s summarized in the Great Commission. In Mark 16 Jesus commanded us to go and preach the gospel, and then He said certain signs would follow us, including laying hands on sick people in His name and seeing them supernaturally recover.

As we approach this beautiful story today, I want to invite you to both receive from Jesus personally, and also to be mentored by Him as a minister of the gospel yourself. In John 14:12 we’ll study how Jesus told us that we—believers—will do the same works He did, and even some greater works. Let’s pray before we read and ask the Lord to teach us how to minister to others through this passage.

**John 5:1–20 (ESV)** After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **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 bee

n 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. **10** So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” **11** But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’ ” **12** They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” **13** Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. **14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” **15** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16** And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17** But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” **18** This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. **19** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

V1.1 – “a feast”

* If “the feast” we would assume it was Passover, but “a feast” is unclear.
* Because of the sequence of events in John, and the four months to harvest in the last chapter, the celebration of Purim is possible; a two-day celebration of God’s deliverance of the Jews found in the book of Esther.

V1.2 – “went up to Jerusalem” = Jerusalem was a higher elevation than Galilee, and when you’re walking, you more than notice

V2.1 – “a pool” = I’ve been to this site many times

V2.2 – “Aramaic” = many translations translate that “Hebrew.” Most historians and scholars agree that Aramaic was the prevalent language in Israel at the time. Aramaic was very similar to Hebrew, but with many terms and expressions that were acquired from other languages and cultures, notably Babylonian.

V2.3 – “Before it was discovered, many questioned the authority of the book of John because of its mention of a pool that didn’t seem to exist. But once again man’s arrogance was upended when in 1888 two pools were discovered near St. Anne’s Church, and the excavation that followed verified that they were indeed the pools with five colonnades that John described.

V2.4 – “Bethesda” = “Bet” = house… “hesda” = from Heb. “hesed” = mercy, loving kindness, covenant loyalty

V3 – Likely similar to the homeless encampments that we’ve seen in recent years in various large cities in America, this was something of an encampment for blind, lame and paralyzed people.

V4.1 – You may have noticed that the end of verse three and all of verse four are missing from the ESV. And it’s not just the ESV… it’s the NIV, NASB2020, NLT, NRSV, NET, etc. The missing words read, ***“waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.”***

V4.2 – Though the majority of the Greek manuscripts available today include those words, the oldest manuscripts do not, and most scholars believe that these words were added at a later time to explain why all the sick people were there. Many people believe that a real angel did occasionally stir up the water and that the first person in after the stirring was healed, but many others believe that these waters, which were fed by a small seasonal stream, had healing properties, and that the angelic explanation was a myth that developed.

V5 – “had an infirmity thirty-eight years” = this man had been in this condition for a LONG time… no doubt he never thought he would ever walk again.

V6 – “Jesus saw… knew… said… *“Do you want to be made well?”*

* And guess what? Jesus sees you today… He knows what you’ve gone through… and He’s asking you a question. “Do you want Me to help you with what you’re facing today?

V7 – “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool…” = (funny: he had the wrong translation) He may not have believed the whole story about the angel stirring the water, but he definitely believed part of it.

V8 – “Rise, take up your bed and walk” = notice that Jesus did not require or inquire about any faith on the man’s part, nor did John mention him having any faith.

V9 – “the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked” = this many was not healed because he believed and acted on it… this man was healed first, and then he got up.

* This was not the usual way that people were healed in the ministry of Jesus
  + **Matthew 4:23 (ESV)** And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
  + **Matthew 9:35 (ESV)** And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.
  + Years ago I did a study on all the individuals that Jesus healed… all that gave any details… and at least 11 of the 22 mentions the person’s faith being involved.
* But this man in John had no faith at all
* This is how we know that it is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit...
  + **1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV)** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

V10-12 – The Jewish religious leaders weren’t interested in the healing, but only the breaking of the Sabbath

V13 – “the man who had been healed did not know who it was”

* he had never met Jesus before
* he had never heard Him preach

V14.1 – “Jesus found him in the temple” = the man possibly went there to offer a sacrifice for breaking the law of the Sabbath

V14.2 – “Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

* (lit) *“Do not keep on sinning anymore so that something worse does not happen to you.”*
* Sin is not always the problem… blind man in John 9
  + **John 9:1–3 (ESV)** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.
* But sometimes sin does
  + allow the enemy to attack us
  + block us from being healed
  + **James 5:14–16 (ESV)** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

V15 – “The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus”

* Do you think he knew? Of course. He chose to be in favor with the majority of the leaders than with the person who healed him.

**EX – Young adult trips to Israel… on Ben Yehuda Street**

V16 – “this is why” = these religious leaders hated that Jesus did not keep the Sabbath law the way that they taught it

V17-20 – Jesus defended His actions as being directed by Father God