

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

“Do you want to be made well?”

John 5:1-18

*We are moving into the third phase of John
revealing Jesus as Messiah, God with us:*

- 1) The *Incarnation* of the Son of God (1:1-18)**
- 2) The *Presentation* of the Son of God (1:19-4:54)**
- 3) The *Opposition* to the Son of God (5:1-12-50)**
- 4) The *Preparation of the Disciples* by the Son of God (13:1-17:26)**
- 5) The *Crucifixion & Resurrection* of the Son of God (18:1-21:25)**

The eternal Word of God became one of us, among us

- Some reject Him, some receive Him & become His family (1:1-13)
- He demonstrates who God is (1:14-18)

He is presented as the Son of God to John the Baptist & others

- He presents Himself to His first disciples & by His wedding miracle (1:19-2:12 & 3:22-36)
- He demonstrates His authority over the Temple (2:13-25)
- He presents Himself in response to Nicodemus (3:1-21)
- He reveals Himself to the Samaritan woman at the well & her city (4:1-42)
- He heals the nobleman's son in absentia, and redeems his family (4:43-54)

Now... as His miracles increase, opposition to Him rises

John 5:1-4, After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 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.

The sin of Adam has filled humanity with multitudes suffering from all manner of sickness & disease God did not include in creation.

Hebrew culture attributed the miraculous to angelic intervention

- “a certain time” did not mean predictable, like Old Faithful
- Urban legend, or regular healings - multitudes gathered expectantly

Vs. 5, Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

- How long he had come, we don't know. But he appears to have been a regular
- Did he have hope, or was he resigned to his condition?
- For many, enduring infirmity is a daily reality (Acts 3:1-2)

Vs. 6, When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, **“Do you want to be made well?”**

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Matthew recounts several times that Jesus was “moved with compassion” for suffering people

- *He knows the suffering we endure (**Hebrews 4:15**)*
- *When He speaks to us, He intends our good*

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What was this suffering man thinking about Jesus’s question?

- *Had he become cynical, like Nathanael?*
- *Are you serious? How can you ask me that?*

.....
Vs. 7, The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

- *He says, I cannot help myself, and no one else helps me.*
- *Other people exclude me for their own benefit. No on regards my need.*

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Vs. 8-9, Jesus said to him, **“Rise, take up your bed and walk.”** And **immediately the man was made well**, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

- *Just as He spoke creation into being (**John 1:3**)...*
- *He spoke restored health into this man’s body*

Vs. 10-13, The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, **“It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”** He answered them, **“He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”** Then they asked him, **“Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?”** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

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*They didn’t ask with enthusiasm, “**Who is this man who healed you?**”*

- *They said, it is a violation of our law for you to use your miraculous healing on the day we forbid it!*
- *Do you think they won him over to religious rule keeping?*

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*“**How DARE you violate our religious rules just because you are healed?**”*

- *Do we have any religious rules we secretly require of people?*
- *We’ll need to discard them if we hope to invite others into freedom in Christ*

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We can’t give what we don’t have

- *“**Love your neighbor as yourself**” has some challenges to it*

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Vs. 14, Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, **“See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”**

- *Sin only brings illness & death. Don’t give it access.*

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Was he lame because of his sin? I don’t think so.

John 9:1-3, Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, **“Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.”**

- *All disease, illness & suffering are the result of sin’s corruption in the human race*

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Matthew 1:21, “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, **for He will save His people from their sins.**”

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Psalms 32:1-5, Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and **in whose spirit there is no deceit**. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

.....
1 John 1:8-10, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

(Rom.3:23)

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Mark 2:1-12, Healing the paralytic. **“Your sins are forgiven you.”**

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What does He really want to heal us of? **Sin**

- *Because it separates us from God & and makes us vulnerable to the enemy*

Vs. 15-18, The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. **For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.** But Jesus answered them, **“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”** **Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him,** because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

.....
*They wanted to **kill the Healer** because He violated their rules*

- *Which is most valuable to God?*
- *Healing this man’s suffering?*
- *Or not carrying his bed on the Sabbath?*

.....
God has given us three commandments to obey:

- **Matthew 22:37**, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”**
- **Matthew 22:39**, **“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”**
- **Matthew 22:40**, **“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**
- **John 13:34**, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”**

.....
John 14:15, **“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”**