

Miracle Worker

Part Six: *lame man*

July 9, 2023

John's gospel is unique. It isn't chronological; it is topical and revolves around seven of Jesus' miracles and his seven "I AM" statements. John's purpose is to show us that Jesus is the Son of God who gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. This morning, we are going to look at one of the seven miracles John was led by the Holy Spirit to include in his gospel.

Jesus Heals a Lame Man - John 5:1-18

1st – John describes the place of the miracle.

Vs. 1-2

The Apostle John does not bother to tell us which holy day Jesus went to Jerusalem to observe (Passover, Tabernacles, or Pentecost - Deut. 16:16; Exodus 23:17; 34:23). John points us to a pool called Bethesda, which means "place of mercy" that was located northeast of the Temple, near the Sheep Gate in the wall of the city.

2nd – John describes the people around the pool. Vs. 3

The men and women lying next to the pool were not there for recreation. They were there because they were in pain and believed the water in the pool could heal them of their disease or handicap. Someone had started a superstition that an angel came from time to time and stirred the water in the pool, and the first person to step into the pool after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease they had.

3rd – John describes the person Jesus chose to heal.

Vs. 5-7

The Son of God singled out one person amongst the many ill and handicapped lying around the pool. Why? Maybe because he had been there the longest and was the best known. The man was either paralyzed, lame, or just too weak to move around on his own. The Lord's question to the lame man seems strange. "*Would you like to get well?*" Like many people, the lame man did not know who Jesus was or understand what Jesus could do for him. If you compare John 5:6 with verse 40, you will see that Jesus chose this man because he illustrated Israel's pitiful spiritual state.

4th – John describes the power of Jesus' words.

Vs. 8-9a

After hearing the lame man's lame excuse, the Lord commanded him to stand up, pick up his bed, and walk! And instantly, the man was cured of his illness! One moment the man was so sick he could not move by himself; the next moment he was standing, picking up his mat, and walking!

5th – John describes the problem Jesus' miracle caused. Vs. 9b-18

The scribes and Pharisees did not rejoice that the man was healed, they just wanted to know who had the audacity to violate the Sabbath laws they had created. To their disappointment, the man could not tell them who had healed him and commanded him to pick up his bed and walk away from the pool. Later, Jesus found the man in the Temple and commanded him to stop sinning or something worse may happen to him. Perhaps the man's illness was the result of God's judgment on a specific sin the man had committed (1 Cor. 11:30), or maybe Jesus was just telling the man to live for God so he can avoid pain and judgment. Jesus didn't just want to heal the man physically, He wanted to heal the man spiritually! He wanted to put the man on the right path (Psalm 1; Matthew 5:6).

After describing the temple scene, John tells us about the conflict that occurred after the scribes and Pharisees learned that Jesus was responsible for the man breaking their rules (John 5:16-18).

Jesus could have healed the man during the week, but He deliberately chose to heal this man on a special Sabbath. Why? Jesus wanted to condemn the man-made traditions of the scribes and Pharisees and show Israel that He is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). From this point on, Israel's leaders would seek to kill Jesus for defying their Sabbath rules and claiming to be equal with God (John 5:16-47).

Takeaways from John Five...

- Jesus heals whom He wants to heal (John 5:3).
- Jesus is more interested in your spiritual welfare than your physical welfare (Hebrews 9:27).
- Religion can stop a person from trusting in Jesus (Matthew 7:13-27).