



THE GOSPEL of JOHN

John 5:1-18

12/30/18 AM

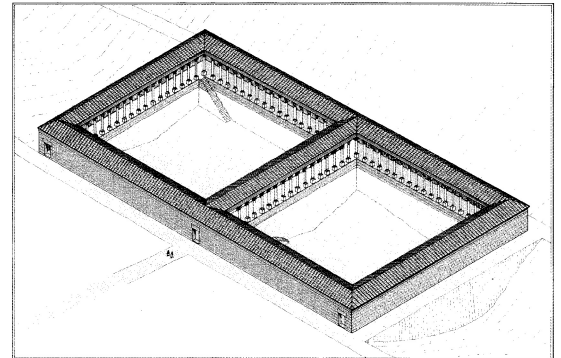
HEALING AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Introduction: The Setting (5:1-4)

A. The Pool (vs. 1-2)

“after these things there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem”

“there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes”



Artist's reconstruction by Leen Ritmeyer

B. The People (vs. 3a)

“in these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered”

C. The Purpose (vs. 3b-4)

“...waiting for the moving of the waters. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.”

I. THE CRIPPLED MAN (5:5-9)

A. His Miserable Condition (vs. 5-7)

“a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years”

“when Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition...”

“He said to him, ‘Do you wish to get well?’”

“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.’”

B. His Miraculous Cure (vs. 8-9)

“Jesus said to him, ‘Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.’”

“immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk”

“Now it was the Sabbath on that day.”

II. THE CRITICISM (5:10-15)

A. His Immediate Denunciation (vs. 10)

“So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, ‘It is the Sabbath...’”

“it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”

B. His Illuding Defense (vs. 11-13)

“But he answered them, ‘He who made me well was the one who said to me, “Pick up your pallet and walk.”’”

“They asked him, ‘Who is the man who said to you, Pick up your pallet and walk?’ but the man who was healed did not know who it was”

“for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place”

C. His Inexcusable Deceit (vs. 14-15)

“afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.’”

“The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.”

III. THE CONTROVERSY (5:16-18)

A. The Accusation (vs. 16)

“for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath”

“He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’”

B. The Charge Sheet (vs. 17-18)

“For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him”

- 1) “because He not only was breaking the Sabbath”
- 2) “but also was calling God His own Father”
- 3) “making Himself equal with God”

Conclusion:

- 1) “Religion is impotent to save anyone but it is powerful to enslave many.” – Steven J. Cole
- 2) Jesus knows the condition of every man and has the exact solution for every need.
- 3) Truth does not unite people. It divides!

Food for Thought:

- 1) Explain John’s use of “the Jews” (5x) in this passage.
- 2) What evidences are in this passage for the deity of Christ?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus deliberately flouted the common Sabbath rules of His day?
- 4) Since there are no indicators in the text that the man believed in Jesus, why did Jesus include this story?