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# John 5:1-16

(Basic Bible in English)

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This incident we're going to talk about happened about 18 months before Jesus Christ's crucifixion. John is really starting to open up about the gospel to the people. He got down on the religious leaders, who are bad because they push man's religion, a twisted version of Jesus Christ's teachings, and ruined many lives. They are religious hypocrites. They are modern day Pharisees. They say if you don't follow their rules, you won't get to God.

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**1 ¶ After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.** We don't know which feast this is, but it is a big one.

**2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.** This is at the sheep gate, a small gate where they brought in the sheep for sacrifice. You only brought sheep in through here. The pool was discovered by archeologists and excavated, being divided into two sections. It's part of a water/spring network under Jerusalem. The five porches were also found.

**3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.** These are handicapped people waiting out here.

**4 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.** There's a lot of controversy about this verse. An angel came and stirred the water and the first one in the water after the stirring was healed. One reason for the controversy over this verse is that in some manuscripts it's omitted. If this verse isn't true and wasn't part of the time, then verse 7 needs to be omitted too. We are not to question God and His ways; we are to accept His word in faith. God tells us what He wants us to know and doesn't tell us what we don't need to know. When Adam and Eve were about, God didn't tell them about the evil that was around. All they knew was good. But Eve's curiosity got the better of her and disobeyed God and ate the apple and discovered evil.

**5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.** 38 years this man had had this infirmity, whatever it was.

**6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?** Of all the people that are there, and we know there were many people there, Jesus Christ walks up to this particular man and asks him if he wants to be healed.

**7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.** This verse goes along with verse 4. The man says he can't make it to the pool fast enough because others always beat him to the pool.

**8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.** What Jesus Christ is telling this man is I want you to get up, take your bed with you, carry it, walk around, and show these people what has happened to you. Make a public display/exhibition of what has happened to you.

**9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.** Notice they make particular note that Jesus Christ healed on the Sabbath day. Jesus Christ healed many times on the Sabbath day, to rub it in the noses of the Pharisees. They said you can't heal or do anything on the Sabbath day, but Jesus Christ showed them over and over that you could do things on the Sabbath.

**10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.** The Pharisees weren't mad because the man was healed; they were irked that he carried his bed on the Sabbath. These people made up some 200 laws regarding what you can/can't do on the Sabbath that had nothing to do with God's rules. The Pharisees were ridiculous and Jesus Christ is showing the public how bad they are. Modern religions to this day make up stuff that we got to do even though it's not in the bible.

**11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.** The man said Jesus Christ says pick up my bed and walk and I'm going to do it. You all haven't done anything for me in 38 years, and He healed me in one day.



**12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?**

**13 And he that was healed wist not (didn't know) who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.** There were probably over 100 people here, and Jesus Christ healed only this one man and then left. He didn't heal everybody. He does the same today. He'll heal people at His discretion. We are still to pray for healing, and God will do it when He's good and ready and we are to have faith.

**14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.** This is an interesting statement. Jesus Christ goes and finds this guy He just healed. The man is in the temple worshipping God after he was healed. Jesus Christ told him now don't sin anymore. There was something he was doing that made him handicapped, and he was to stop doing that, whatever it was, or something worse would happen to him. At that time, people believed if you were sick or poor, it was evidence of whatever sin you were committing. They didn't have to know what sin you were committing; it showed in sickness or poorness.

**15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.**

**16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.** The more Jesus Christ comes out in the open and shows the people who He is, the more the people persecute Him, up until the crucifixion. It didn't matter that He healed a man that was sick for 38 years. The religious hypocrites were mad because Jesus Christ "worked" on the Sabbath.

#### **Explanation of the Sabbath directly from the bible:**

"Sabbath just means "a cessation from normal activities to rest and get your mind and body reset and focused on God."

#### **Exodus 31:12-17**

**12 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,**

**13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.** Who is God speaking to? The nation of Israel. The church didn't exist at that time. The Sabbath is Friday sundown to Saturday sundown.

**14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.** "Work" could be that man carrying the bed when Jesus Christ healed him.

**15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.** If you walked over 1000 feet on the Sabbath day, you should be put to death. Even if you caused someone else to work you should be put to death. Turn on a light switch, cook a meal, any of this could be a death sentence.

**16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.** Shows right here it's for Israel, not the church, but it's not effective anymore because their messiah has already come and risen. Now we listen to Jesus Christ, as do the Jews.

**17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.** The Sabbath is for rest, for recharging, for refocusing on God.