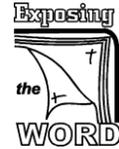




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10- Healing at the Pool

John 5:1-18

Men have always taken the things of God and placed their own restrictions and feelings on them. The things that men place upon the simply things of God most times form the basis for legalism. Legalism being making keeping certain rituals or practices to make one holy.

Jesus has entered into the period of His ministry that Merrill Tenney called the period of controversy. Jesus was constantly on the move during His time on earth and we find Him traveling to Jerusalem.

Joh 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

I- The Pool of Bethesda:

Joh 5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

The Archaeological Study Bible says, "It was located near what are now the ruins of basilica of Saint Anne to the north of the temple mount. The "pool" was actually two pools surrounded by four porticoes, with a fifth portico situated between them. The surface area of the enclosed water was over 3.10 square miles."

The name of this pool literally means house of mercy.

Joh 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 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.

By the pool lay all sorts of afflicted men and women who were suffering because of the sin of the fall. They were blind, lame,

and withered. Men who had no hope of a cure apart from a supernatural miracle from God. they lay waiting on the moving of the water to which they attributed it to be the stirring of the water by an angel from God.

There are a lot of speculation about this found in the writing of Christianity without anyone capable of being dogmatic or certain. It does seem however that there were men and women healed here from time to time.

II- A Certain Man:

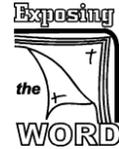
We have been given names of several people in the gospel of John but this man remains unnamed. He is simply called a certain man.

Joh 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 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?

Jesus singles this man out from among the many possibly hundreds that lay in wait for healing. We find out a few things about the man here. First he had been sick 38 years. We do not know, nor is it implied, that he was 38 years old. We also see that this length of time would have undoubtedly have allowed all those who lived close and frequently the temple often to have known of his condition.

Jesus asks him a simple question, wilt thou be made whole? Do you want to get better?

The clear spiritual parallels here are the condition of mankind without Christ. Man is blind, lame and withered away. Jesus asks a simple question to men today, wilt thou be made whole.



III- The Reply:

Joh 5:7 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.

We find that not only could he not get in the pool in any timely matter but he had no one to help him to do so as well.

Did you notice that he never answered the question. He never said sure I want to be made whole. He simply stated to him the obvious situation that had become helpless but he laid there day by day hoping.

What another part of the picture of mankind this is. Sinners are beyond healing by their own hands and the help of mere humanity to give them eternal life.

Having said that there is another angle to this as well. How many people are lying in wait for someone, one of us who name the name of Christ, to come by with the good news of healing in Christ of sins blindness and malady.

Sir, I have not man are haunting and compelling words. May we reply as Isaiah did in *Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*

IV- The Healing:

Jesus never told the man that he was healed he gave him instructions that would require him to believe that he was healed.

Joh 5:8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

It says immediately that he was healed and did as Jesus had instructed by picking up the mattress or in most cases only a quit

like bed. The miracle of the healing was proved by the evidence of this man walking.

Attached innocently onto the verse is a simple statement that we had not known unto now in the story. This even took place on the Sabbath.

V- Law Breaker or Obedient:

This will set forth a firestorm of accusation against this man.

Joh 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

What the Jews said to him was indeed correct. Notice *Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Jer 17:21 Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.

So did Jesus give this man instruction that caused him to sin by breaking the law. I remind us all that the law was the law of God and God alone can suspend and supersede His own law if He were to choose. After all He gave the law of gravity as well and Jesus rose from the earth in the ascension. Elijah also was released from the law of gravity as he rose in the chariot.

Simply looked at this law of the Sabbath was given so that men would honor God. This public carrying of the bed after the healing by Christ certainly was glorifying to God.

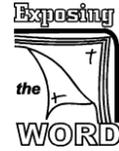
These Jews were so set in the letter of the law that there was nothing possible that could make it right for him to be carrying his bed. They were more interesting in keeping religion than the welfare of the man. They could not enjoy the movement of God in the healing for worrying about being right.



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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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Jesus you will remember is, as *Mat 12:8* says, “... *the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.*”

The man gave a reply that shows that he understood what he was suppose to do was to trust and obey. *John 5:11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.*

They inquired farther. *John 5:12 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 who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.*

He did not have an answer, he only knew he had been healed and the one who healed him had told him to take up his bed and walk. He simply reasoned that if this man had the power to heal him that He also must have the authority to instruct him in the law as well.

An interesting note here also is that Jesus conveyed, or slipped quietly away from the scene. Why, we might ask. Probably to keep from the place become a circus with all the others who were sick insisting on being healed.

Jesus also passed unnoticed into the crowd on an occasion previous to this as well. When He stood in the synagogue in Nazareth and taught it so angered the Jews of His boyhood hometown that they sought to kill Him. *Luke 4:28-30 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. 30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,*

So now again He melts into the crowd not causing any undue attention. I am also

reminded that all things Christ did were in the perfect time of God.

VI- Persecution Intensifies:

Jesus did not leave the city He only left the pool. He remained in Jerusalem. He will have another encounter with the man in a little time. Notice that the man was in the place where he could give God the glory. He never forgot to return to give thanks.

Joh 5:14 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.

We do not know if this was the same day but it well could have been. Jesus seems to indicate that the 38 years of affliction were because of sin.

Joh 5:15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

They asked, so he told them. They wanted to know so they could blame some else.

I remind us that Jesus is entering a time when His public ministry will be met with increasing opposition. This will ultimately lead to the cross.

Joh 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. 17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. 18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

If anyone ever tells you that Jesus did not claim to be God don't listen. The Jews clearly understood that this was His claim.

The overall compassion of Christ comes to the forefront in this miracle and the harshness of religion glares like a unsympathetic light.