

# John 5 - The Pool of Bethesda

Joh 5:1-17 ESV After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate **a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda**, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay **a multitude of invalids**--blind, lame, and paralyzed [waiting for the moving of the water;] 4 [for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.]

## Bethesda - House of Mercy / House of Lovingkindness - in Hebrew "Chesed"

The Hebrew word **chesed** has no English equivalent but its basic idea is of passionate loyalty, especially of a superior to an inferior. Being an expression of relationship, the term means faithfulness, kindness, goodness, grace, mercy, unflinching love and compassion, but primarily loyalty to a covenant.

- Jer 9:24 ESV but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices [**steadfast love**], justice, and **righteousness** in the earth. **For in these things I delight**, declares the LORD."

## The pool of Bethesda for many was more likely the house of hopelessness

5 **One man** was there who had been an **invalid for thirty-eight years**. 6 When Jesus **saw him** lying there and **knew that he had already been there** a long time, he said to him, "**Do you want to be healed?**" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, **I have no one** to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going **another steps down before me**." 8 Jesus said to him, "**Get up, take up your bed, and walk.**" 9 And **at once** the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now **that day was the Sabbath**.

- Invalid for 38 years (among multitudes perhaps many who had been there for years)
- **BUT Jesus SAW Him and KNEW him...(Psalm 139)**
- **Do you want to be healed?** - he saw barriers and limitations - rather than what the LORD could do
  - I have no one to help me
  - Someone always beats me to the water
- **Jesus simply spoke a word, and at once (vs 38 years relying on man) the man was healed**
- Jesus' command was impossible -- GET UP, TAKE UP your bed and WALK - transfer faith to Jesus
- **WALK** = literally to walk -- figuratively to **live, deport oneself, follow** - live the life Jesus wants (vs 14)

## The Jewish Leaders failed to recognize MESSIAH - because of tradition

9(b) Now **that day was the Sabbath**. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "**It is the Sabbath**, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." 11 But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" 12 They asked him, "**Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'**" 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

## "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "**See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.**"

- Chesed can be translated by **loving-kindness and mercy** -- but beware God still is looking for righteousness
- Chesed is not a sentimental kindness, and mercy comes with repentance
- His demand for righteousness is insistent - **chesed** means his mercy is greater (where sin abounds)
- The word stands for the wonder of his unfailing love
- He resolved the tension between His demand for righteousness and his covenant lovingkindness by giving us His son

### Why this man? Why this place? Why this day?

#### **WHY THIS MAN? -- It is a sign...Messiah will heal the lame**

- Isa 35:4-6 ESV 6 then shall **the lame man leap like a deer**,... **[a prophecy about Messiah]**

#### **WHY THIS PLACE**

- **JESUS came to show this man the HE - (not the pool) is the source of CHESED**

#### **WHY THIS DAY?**

- This man was **physically invalid**, but the **Jewish leaders are spiritually invalid**...they need to experience the CHESED of God as well.
- A sign of Messiah has been performed, but they fail to see it, yet they are bound to tradition
- Instead of asking "**Who is the man who healed you?**", **Could this be our long awaited Messiah?** they asked "**Who is the guy who told you to take up your bed?**" --more concerned about "breaking the commandment", than the Messianic miracle
- Jesus brings a healing on the Sabbath because it will bring to the forefront that which limits them...the invalid man was limited because he had no one to help him, the Jewish leaders were limited because they held to their traditions which caused them to be blind

#### **Jesus comes to both to say "I am the true house of MERCY, the true house of Lovingkindness**

### Jesus shows them Chesed (mercy and lovingkindness) by revealing His deity

Joh 5:15-20 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the **Jews were persecuting Jesus**, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "**My Father is working until now, and I am working.**" 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because *not only was he breaking the Sabbath*, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God**. 19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord**, but only what he sees the Father doing. **For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.** 20 For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all that he himself is doing**. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

### As the Father, So also the Son

- 21 For as the **Father** raises the dead and **gives them life**, so also **the Son gives life** to whom he will.
- 22 The Father judges no one, but has given **all judgment to the Son**
- 23 that all may **honor the Son**, just as **they honor the Father**. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

## Eternal destinies of all men rest in the hands of Jesus

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life**. He does not come into judgment, but **has passed** from death to life.

- The man at the well needed to HEAR the WORDS to receive HEALING and LIFE -
- the Jewish Leaders and in fact all men must HEAR and BELIEVE to have eternal life
- Having eternal life is immediate, just like the healing of the man

### **Life, Judgement, Resurrection**

- Joh 5:25-29 ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live**. 26 For as the **Father has life** in himself, so he has granted the **Son also to have life in himself**. 27 And he has given him **authority to execute judgment**, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil to the **resurrection of judgment**."

## Multiple Witnesses - in the mouth of 2 or 3 Witnesses every word is established

### **The witness of John**

- Vs 33 You sent to John, and **he has borne witness to the truth**. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

### **The witness of the works**

- 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, **the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me** that the Father has sent me.

### **The Witness of the Father**

- 37 And the **Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me**.

### **The Witness of Scripture**

- 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is they that bear witness about me**, 40 yet **you refuse to come to me** that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. .... 46 For **if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me**. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

## SUMMARY

- Jesus is inserting himself into the world and revealing himself as MESSIAH
- As such He is showing them all that He is the ONLY and TRUE source of Mercy and Lovingkindness
- That mercy and lovingkindness DOES touch on our physical ailments (the lame man) - but it speaks eternally to our spiritual well-being
- Jesus claims to be God - and there are multiple parties that bear witness to that truth - each person must come to grips with that, because "**whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life**"

### FOR US:

- 1) **Do you want to be healed? - are you paralyzed in some area - needing a word from Jesus?**
- 2) He is a God who delights in Chesed...it is a covenant love - that has an expectation of righteousness
- 3) What are you relying on? The lame man relied others, the Pharisees leaned on tradition, but only Jesus can give Chesed - Mercy and Lovingkindness
- 4) Do you believe that Jesus is who He said He is - your eternal destiny is in His hands...he comes with Chesed