

The Miracles of Jesus



Do You Want To Get Well?

John 5:1-16

¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" ⁷ "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." ⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." ¹¹ But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. ¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

1. The Cripple

▼ *There was a crippled crowd*

¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

- ▲ *Companies of cripples convened amidst covered colonnades*
- ▲ *Hurt and heartache and hopelessness huddled amidst the holy headquarters*
- ▲ *Festering and frustration flourished amidst feasting and festivities*

▼ *This was a chronic condition*

⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

- ▲ *Note the loneliness of his condition*
- ▲ *Note the longevity of his condition*
- ▲ *Note the longing for a cure from his condition*

2. The Cure

▼ *Jesus started a conversation*

⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" ⁷ "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

- ▲ *The asking of the question was peculiar but pointed*
- ▲ *The answer to the question was pitiful but profitless*

▼ *Jesus spoke a command*

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

- ▲ *Jesus commanded him to vacate the region*
- ▲ *Jesus commanded him to violate the religious rule*

▼ *Jesus supplied a cure*

⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

- ▲ *The man was cured*
- ▲ *The man was compliant*

3. The Controversy

▼ *"The Jews" complained about the mat*

⁹ The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." ¹¹ But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

- ▲ *They focused more on the mat than on the man*
- ▲ *They focused more on the mat than on the miracle*
- ▲ *They focused more on the mat than on the Messiah*

▼ *Jesus cautioned the man about continued misconduct*

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

- ▲ *Jesus focused on legitimate healing*
- ▲ *Jesus focused on longterm health and holiness*

▶ *"The Jews" continued to major on minors*

¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

Messages from the Miracle

1. No condition is too chronic or crippling when Jesus is involved — He is a miracle-worker and life-changer.
2. Rising from a long-term rut requires cooperation with Jesus — you must be willing to receive from Jesus, get well, and move forward.
3. Religious rituals and recipes are no answers for life-long debilitating conditions — the power of Jesus is the answer.
4. Jesus is the breather of new life, new hope, new direction, and new future — whatever your past has been, he can design a new future.
5. When Jesus gives you a new lease on life, treasure it — don't go backward — and don't mess up your new life with sin.
6. Live out your new life in Christ in such a way that people will want to know the source of your miracle for themselves.