

WE HAVE THE MAN!

Joh 5:5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

Joh 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Joh 5:7 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."

Joh 5:8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Jesus visited a notorious pool where the sick and infirmed would seek for healing from God. This pool was called Bethesda which means house of mercy. This pool had five porches. This pool was famous for its healing waters. An angel would stir the waters at a certain season and whoever was first in the water was healed. Jesus encountered a man who had been at the pool for thirty eight years trying to be the first one in the water and get his healing and had done without. This pool and this situation are highly symbolic and show us how we can and should receive from God today.

This pool's name speaks of God's mercy and the five porches surrounding it speak of God's grace. The number five in the Bible speaks of the grace of God. This pool is known to be a place to receive healing. Jesus came to this pool to reveal the true mercy and grace of God and how we can receive both from God.

The problem before Jesus showed up was that the people at this pool were trying to get God's healing by the Law and not by grace. This pool and this situation shows how the nation of Israel was trying to receive blessing from God before Jesus came. They were trying to gain the blessings of God by the Law and their own efforts and ability. This is seen in the competition that would ensue every time an angel would stir up the water in the pool. There was a mad scramble and race to get the blessing of God. It was a competition and only the fastest and strongest won. This is the basis of the Law. It is based upon one's own strength, ability, and competition against others to gain the blessings of God. Another clue that this situation spoke of the Law was that angels were involved in this process. The Law and angels are connected. The Law was given by the mediation of angels. The ministry of an angel bringing

healing speaks of the Law. However, Jesus the Son of God, came to heal by His grace and mercy and not by the Law. Jesus came to a man who was paralyzed and could not walk. He could not get to the water before he was beat out. This man speaks of humanity and its condition from the fall. Man is paralyzed and is unable to meet God's standards and is unable to merit God's blessings by his strength, effort, and ability. This man came to the slow realization that he needed a man to pick him up and bring him to healing. It just was not going to happen by his own efforts. This man was waiting for thirty-eight years under the Law trying to get his healing. The number thirty-eight is representative of the Law. The nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness after they rejected the promise land and God's grace for thirty eight years.

Deu 2:14 "Thirty-eight years passed from the time we first left Kadesh-barnea until we finally crossed the Zered Brook! By then, all the men old enough to fight in battle had died in the wilderness, as the LORD had vowed would happen.

The people who rejected God's grace and the Promised Land by their unbelief wandered for thirty eight years in the wilderness hoping to see the Promised Land, but they never did. They died in the wilderness under the Law. This man Jesus met on the pool had waited similarly for thirty eight years to experience the promise of healing but he had not. If Jesus had not come to him, he would have died in his condition. But thanks be to Jesus and His mercy! Jesus came to this man and when He found the desire in him to be healed, He spoke His word and told the man to rise and walk! The very words of the Son of God who is the Word of God empowered this man to get up, be healed, and to walk! What the Law and angels could not bring this man, Jesus the Man was able to bring to him!

Many today labor under a system of Law endeavoring and competing for the blessings of God. They do not understand why they cannot obtain. They have not yet come to the realization that they cannot do it. They do not realize they are paralyzed by their flesh. They have not yet realized that they need a man to help them. Jesus is that Man. He is **THE MAN!**

God's house is a house of mercy. God sits upon a throne of grace in which we may obtain mercy and find grace. The good news of the gospel is that the presence of Christ has come to permanently abide with us by His Spirit. We do not need an angel to bring us what we need. We have the very presence of the Lord with us to minister His manifold provisions to us

by His grace through faith. We can receive everything we need today by placing our faith in the finished work of Christ and His gift of righteousness. Praise God we have THE MAN Christ Jesus to save us and deliver us every day from sin, sickness, and lack! Rise and walk in the name of Jesus Christ!