



## STORY

Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda - John 5:1-47

## TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give me faith to believe that Jesus is able to heal my diseases because He is the Son of God and my Savior. Also give me the faith to accept those infirmities which reveal Your strength in my life. May the Holy Spirit, working through me, make Jesus real to these children. Bless my preparation in Your Word and my presentation of that Word. Amen.

## VOCABULARY

*Sabbath Day* - the 7<sup>th</sup> day (Saturday) on which Old Testament Israel was to do no work

*infirmities* - weaknesses, often used in connection with physical diseases

*Scriptures* - God's written Word

## OUTER AIM

Jesus Heals the Man and Reveals Himself as the Son of God

## INNER AIM

Jesus Heals Me and Reveals Himself to Me Through the Holy Scriptures

## BACKGROUND

John emphasizes the fact that Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah and the Son of God. He takes us from Galilee back to Jerusalem. Here Jesus set forth His claim to the Jewish leaders that He was the promised Messiah through His miraculous healing of the man who had not walked for the past thirty-eight years.

## STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You are able to help us when no one else can. You have revealed Yourself as Lord over sickness and disease. According to your will, help us when we are sick. You have revealed Yourself through the Bible. Help us learn more about You as we search the Scriptures for there we will find You. Amen.

## PRESENTATION

Jesus found Himself at Bethesda. Here was a pool enclosed by five porches near the sheep market and close to the "Sheep Gate." The pool was for healing. An angel moved the waters and the first person to enter the pool at that time would be healed. (Note that verse 4 in the King James is not in all the manuscripts.) Here Jesus found people in great need, i.e. the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

Our attention is drawn to a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. He had no friend to help him get into the waters, and yet he hoped for a cure. Jesus turned the man's attention away from the pool and centered it upon Himself (vs.7). Jesus cured the man, and he walked.

This healing took place on the Sabbath Day, the day of rest. It was not a violation of the Sabbath rest but a bringing of rest to this poor man. The Jews became angry at him because he was carrying his rolled-up mat on the Sabbath Day. This was to them a violation of the letter of the Sabbath law.

At this time, the man had no idea WHO had healed him. Jesus who had given him physical healing also gave him spiritual and inward healing. Jesus reminded him of a worse punishment than his physical sickness, i.e. eternal condemnation.

Jesus revealed Himself to the Jewish leaders as the Messiah and the Son of God (vs. 18). Their opposition to Jesus continued to grow as He revealed Himself to them as their Savior, the Son of God who alone gives life.

Note how Jesus tied Himself to the Old Testament scriptures. (vs. 36ff). If they would believe the Scriptures, they would believe in Jesus. However, the religious leaders believed neither Jesus nor the Scriptures.

## **APPLICATION**

Jesus healed this man by His divine power. Disease is a result of sin. Even those people Jesus healed eventually died. The final healing from disease will not take place until we are with Jesus in heaven.

Jesus heals us. However, He does not heal all diseases nor does He always do so with a miracle. Even sickness has a purpose in strengthening our faith and bringing us closer to Jesus.

The religious leaders rejected Jesus and even wanted to kill Him, not only because He healed on the Sabbath Day, but because He claimed to be the Son of God (John 5:18). People today also react strongly to Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Jesus is revealed in the Scriptures. The Old Testament testifies concerning Him. Jesus encourages us to search the Scriptures. We are not to casually read the Bible just on Sundays. We are to dig into the Bible daily and mine its depths. If you do not find Jesus in the Bible, you have missed the main message of the Scriptures. If someone does not believe the words of God in the Bible, he or she will not believe Jesus.

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

2 Tim 3:15-16 - "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage - TLH #283

We Have a Sure Prophetic Word - TLH #290

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - TLH #457