

“The Signs And Wonders Of Jesus”

John 4:43-5:16

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Teaching Aim: To examine the healings of the nobleman’s son at Capernaum and the invalid man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. To realize, in performing these signs and wonders, Jesus was demonstrating proof that He was the Messiah. (See **Isa. 35:5-6**) To recognize both of these miracles should have been celebrated by all of the Jewish people but they were not by some. Instead, it was the healing on the Sabbath Day that caused the Jewish religious leaders to start persecuting Jesus; it is noteworthy that Jesus faced their persecution from that time forth.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Jesus heals the nobleman’s son in Capernaum (John 4:46-54)

1. We are not told why Jesus came to Cana in Galilee. It could have been to follow-up on the wedding He had attended earlier; the miracle He had performed there; or for some other reason (**vs. 46**). Once word spread that Jesus was in Cana, who made the 20-mile trip from Capernaum to meet with Jesus? Why? What can we know about this man from the Bible?

2. The noblemen heard that Jesus had come from Jerusalem to Cana. Why is this point critical to understand why the nobleman went to Him (**vs. 47**)? (See **John 2:23**) Have you ever had a scary time in your life that involved your children or grandchildren medically? How desperate were you to help them? Would you travel to see Jesus if He were near you?

3. What request did the nobleman make to Jesus (**vs. 47**)? How ill was his son? What was Jesus’ response to the desperate man’s pleas (**vs. 48**)? Why would Jesus say that? What is the ultimate sign that Jesus gave to the Jews? (See **Matt. 12:38-45**) Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ still sending a message today?

4. What did the nobleman think needed to happen in order for his son’s life to be saved (**vs. 49**)? Note: The nobleman appears to have a limited faith in the miracle power of Jesus. Did Jesus do what the man asked (**vs. 50**)? What did He do? What kind of emotions do you think the nobleman went through when Jesus responded differently? What did he do?

5. It was a 20-mile walk from Cana back to Capernaum, a solid day's journey. Who met the nobleman along the way (**vs. 51**)? What good news did they bring him? How do you think that he felt at this moment?

6. What did the nobleman ask his servants (**vs. 52**)? Why was the hour significant? What time was the man's son healed? (See commentaries) Was the healing gradual or instantaneous? What happened as a result of this healing (**vs. 53**)? What circumstances in your life brought you to faith in Christ? What are some ways that you've grown in your faith since that time?

7. The healing of the nobleman's son is called the second sign Jesus did when He went down from Judea to Galilee (**vs. 54**). What was the first sign (also done in Cana)? (See **John 2:1-11**) Why don't we see more miracles being performed today? What is the purpose of miracles in the Bible?

Part II: Jesus heals the invalid man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (John 5:1-9)

1. After the healing of the nobleman's son, there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem (**vs. 1**). The life of Jesus revolves around "*the seven feasts of Israel*." These include: the Passover; Unleavened Bread; Firstfruits; Pentecost; Trumpets; the Day of Atonement; and Tabernacles. In John this is the only time a feast is mentioned but not named. How do these feasts fit eschatologically with the pre-trib, pre-millennial view of the end times?

2. Jesus went to the pool, which in the Hebrew, is called "*Bethesda*." What gate was this pool located by (**vs. 2**)? What was the significance of this gate to the temple worship? What kind of people gathered around this pool (**vs. 3**)? What was their hope?

3. **Verses 3b and 4** are not found in the older and most reliable manuscripts. They are also not found in many of our modern Bible translations today. No manuscript before A.D. 400 contains them. What is the most common explanation for these verses being excluded from these translations? (See commentaries)

4. Who was laying at the pool on the day that Jesus arrived there (**vs. 5**)? How long had this man been crippled? Why was the man waiting there by the pool at Bethesda? Did the man see Jesus as being his healer or just another person to get him into the pool? What was the man's focus on? Have you ever had a time in your life where you let your eyes get off of Jesus and onto something that turned out to be no more than superstition?

5. Today modern faith healers tend to look for the easy cases and most often seem to do their *"healing miracles"* on stage. Who did Jesus look for at the pool of Bethesda? This man had been crippled for longer than Jesus had lived on earth in His human nature. Why do you think Jesus went to him? Why don't modern faith healers leave the stage and take the healing gift many claim right into local hospitals? Wouldn't the name of Jesus be glorified if many patients in local hospitals were healed?

6. What question did Jesus ask the invalid man in **verse 6**? Why would Jesus ask him this? According to **verse 7**, what was the man looking to for healing? Note: It is a sad thing when we look to Jesus as no more than a tool to meet our physical needs. In reality, the angel stirring the water may possibly have been nothing more than a legend. The man was waiting by the pool for a healing that would never come through the pool's waters. To whom did Jesus want the man to look to for healing?

7. At this point the man had not asked Jesus to heal him; he didn't even believe in Jesus. What unexpected command did Jesus give to the man in **verse 8**. Why would this command be shocking to the man? Now did the man respond to the command from Jesus (**vs. 9**)? Was the healing gradual or immediate?

8. William MacDonald writes, *"The lesson here is that when we are saved, we are not only told to rise, but also to walk. The Lord Jesus gives us healing from the plague of sin, and then He expects us to walk in a manner worthy of Him."* How do MacDonald's words apply to your life today?

Part III: Jesus healed the invalid man on the Sabbath Day angering the local Jewish religious leaders (John 5:9b-16)

1. On what day did the healing take place (**vs. 9**)? Why is this significant? Did the Jews celebrate the healing of the invalid man (**vs. 10**)? Should they have? What did they do? Was this an unlawful act or was it one of the 39 traditions the Pharisees had set up in regard to the Sabbath? Why did they see the man carrying his bed as a violation of the Sabbath?
2. How did the healed man respond to their questioning (**vs. 11**)? Why? Stoning was a possible punishment for this violation, who do the Jews now begin to look for (**vs. 12**)? What was the man's response (**vs. 13**)? Why? Note: The Gk word for "withdraw" can also be translated, "to dodge." Why do you think Jesus dodged the crowd and left the area?
3. What do we find Jesus doing in **verse 14**? What did Jesus mean by this warning? Do you think the man was sick because of a specific sin that he had committed? How did the healed man respond to the kindness of Jesus (**vs. 15**)? Have you ever had somebody backstab you after doing something kind for them? Did this man hurt Jesus by his words?
4. What was the result of the healed man pointing out Jesus to the religious rulers (**vs. 16**)? It is important to note that from this time forth the Jewish leaders persecuted Jesus. Was this all part of God's sovereign plan?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The nobleman (or royal official) probably worked under King Herod Antipas.
- The man was desperate to save the life of his son and came pleading his need to Jesus.
- Jesus didn't do what he asked, but simply told the nobleman to "Go your way, your son is healed"; this would require faith.
- The man was frightened but forced to trust the words of Jesus; just like we are at times.
- As a result of this miracle, the man and his entire household were saved.
- The man at Bethesda had fought this infirmity longer than Jesus had lived on earth.
- The paralytic man did not ask Jesus to heal him; he apparently did not believe in Christ.
- Jesus went to, what was likely, the most difficult case at the pool and healed the man.
- The Jews were angry that Jesus had broken their traditions by healing on the Sabbath Day.
- Being a religious leader does not necessarily mean that an individual is godly.