

The Book of John – 28

Introduction - We are continuing with the first **17 verses of John chapter 5**. This section begins with the sign, the healing of the impotent man. The rest of the chapter details for you and me the Lord's response to His claim to deity. We have already discussed:

A. The Healing at the Pool

1. The **Timing** of the event.
2. The **Location** of the event.
3. The **People** of the event.
4. The **Reason** of the event.



The Siloam Pool- discovered in 2004 – John 9:7

John 5:5 *“5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.”*

After the introductory statements that set the scene for you and me, we see this informational statement concerning a **certain man**. For this, we see:

5. The **Person** of the event.

We looked at the people of the event earlier and noted that the Bible tells us there was a *“...great multitude...”* of people in need. But here we see that the Holy Spirit focuses on this **certain man**. We are also told the details of this man's case. Notice the Bible tells us that he had *“...an infirmity thirty and eight years.”* **vs. 5** We are not told how old this man is, but **38 years** is half of a lifetime (**80 years - Psalm 90:10**). Some have seen a parallel to the nation of Israel's unbelief and their wilderness wanderings in this number. In **Deuteronomy 2:14**, we read this sad commentary, *“14 And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them.”* Regardless, we can say this without a doubt: being in this condition of infirmity for 38 years is not good. The condition of this man was truly hopeless.

Dr. Vernon McGee relayed this story about this passage as he remembered it; he stated, “I went up one year to speak the Preventorium (A preventorium was an institution or building for patients infected with tuberculosis who did not yet have an active form of the

disease), where little fellows and girls who had weak lungs or tuberculosis were cared for. They presented an Easter program. One little fellow there quoted the entire fifth chapter of John, all forty-seven verses. He made only one error; I always felt it was not much of an error. In **verse 3**, he quoted it like this, “In these lay a great multitude of **important** folk...” Quite a few people smiled when he said that. I got to thinking about it and realized he was correct.”

Indeed, these were **important people**—they were important to the Lord Jesus Christ...And though friends and family may have abandoned or marginalized him, the Lord Jesus Christ did not! Let’s look at **verse 6** together.

John 5:6 *“6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?”*

First, we see the Lord **looking upon the man**. Here, He sees the man lying in this state. Not only does He see him, but the Bible tells us, “...*he knew...*”

This is a truth for you and me to know that **the Lord knows the condition of every man**. This man was outwardly and, in an obvious way, impotent, but some are blinded to their plight and disease. This is why we shine the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit expose **man’s true condition**. Not only did the Lord know, but “**he said...**”

What did the Lord say to this man? Look again at **verse 6** in the latter part, **John 5:6**: “... *Wilt thou be made whole?*”

It seems rather peculiar for the Lord to ask this question **of a sick man**. To what purpose was this question asked?

1. To bring true hope into view for this man.
2. To turn this man’s attention from the hopeless water **to the Living Water, the Lord Himself**.
3. To wake the man **from His indifference**, perhaps to His state. (It goes something like this: “Well, this is just how it is...”)

All of His time at this pool, His eyes were fixated on something that **did not change His condition**.

Dr. McGee stated this in His commentary, “Just think of the people waiting in our churches, waiting for some great, sweeping emotion to engulf them. Then, some are postponing making a decision for Christ. They are unwilling to turn to Him because they are looking for something to happen.”

And so, the Lord asks Him this question: Wilt thou be made whole? We might say it this way: Will you be made whole, Not by any water...not **by anything or anyone else**, but **by the Lord Jesus Christ?**

John 5:7 *“7 The impotent man answered him, **Sir, I have no man**, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.”*

This truly is the issue at hand...**or so he thought**. I have no man! Do we realize that according to **1 John 5:19**, “...**the whole world lieth in wickedness**.” He thought I would be made whole if I had a man to help me. Could it be that all we need is just some better human ingenuity?

What **can cure that which sin has wrought?**

Later in **verse 14**, we find this statement by the Lord to the healed man. *“14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, **Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**”*

His answer thus affirmed his belief that the only reason he lay sick still was because of someone else's indifference. Now, what is amazing to me is what the Lord says next. We see a direct command, **a challenge to this man's hope, this man's trust, this man's belief**.

John 5:8 *“8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”*

I have no doubt that this man's eyes met the precious eyes of the Savior... We see instantly that the Lord did not say, Well, since you put it that way, let me get my disciples over here to put you in the water when they are troubled. This was a **direct challenge to immediate personal action**. As we close with this lesson for today, I wonder what is it that the Lord is challenging you with?