**John VI**

**The Healing at the Pool of Bethsaida**

**Review:**

Theme of John:

Jesus is the Son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him.

Jesus is revealed through is miracles and his statements about himself.

And this week… Through his fulfillment of prophetic Jewish festivals.

Last Week John 4 The Samaritan Woman at the Well: The outsider believes.

Jesus, traveling to Galilee, passes through Samaria, arriving at Jacob’s Well, near Sychar in Samaria.

A 1. “sinful” 2. unmarried 3. Samaritan 4. woman. Offers Jesus water to drink. Three strikes and you are out, but not to Jesus!

Jesus is a revolutionary. Breaking every racial, gender and religious barrier.

Jesus’ enigmatic statement: John 4:14 Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

The Samaritan woman: Which is the correct mountain to worship at: Mt. Gerizim of Mt. Zion/Jerusalem

Jesus says, “a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain (Gerazim), nor in Jerusalem. God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Samaritan Woman: OK, God will save us through His Messiah.

v. 26. A total blow-away. “I who speak to you—I am he.” Jesus here claims to be God for the first time—to a Samaritan woman.

John 4:34 Jesus: My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish his work.

Stages of belief:

1. thirsty man

2. Jewish man

3. Rabbi

4. Prophet

5. Messiah

6. Savior of the world.

Jesus is all these things.

Yes, and even the most estranged, most distant, most unlikely to believe will believe if they see Jesus. Let us help them to meet Jesus.

This week: John 5:1-30 The healing at the Pool of Bethsaida.

John 5:1-6

v. 1 Some time later. Jesus spent several months in Galilee, probably recorded in Matthew, Mark or Luke, but now he is back in Jerusalem for one of the festivals.

His time has still not yet come, so he is staying in the background.

An unidentified festival.

The Feast of Tabernacles? “the Festival.”

What is important to the story is this is a Sabbath, not the identity of the festival.

Bethsaida/Bethesda surrounded by five covered colonnades,

an upper and a lower pool,

steps leading to the lower pool,

great crowds of people.

Normal day, dozens of invalids, waiting for the water to be “stirred”

Lots of “disabled” parking spots.

But… Sabbath and great festival. Huge crowds.

And… “Jewish Leaders (probably Pharisees)

looking for unruly behavior or unauthorized teaching

Is the water hot or cold? What do you think? How many levels of steps lead down to the water?

Jesus quietly walks into this scene. Who will he go up and talk to?

Us... Someone like ourselves. Not Jesus.

A man who has been completely disabled for 38 years.

Probably his family drop him off in the morning and leave him there.

How would he feel about his situation?

Why did Jesus choose this man?

John 5:6 Jesus: Do you want to get well. Theme verse today.

Jesus asks penetrating questions. Not a trivial question. John wants you to ask yourself.

If he got well, he might have to start working.

Maybe he was comfortable in his situation—as bad as it was.

Do you want to get well? Or are you comfortable being religious?

What if Jesus healed you? How would you have to change your life?

Are you willing to be a disciple? To have to live a pure life? To share your faith? To be persecuted?

John 5:7-15

v. 7 “Sir, I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred.”

(v. 3-4 angel stirring not in original. Stirring from upper pool)

Hmmm…. What kind of answer is that? How about “Yes!!!”

Was he frustrated? Was he just making an excuse?

He hadn’t gotten in first even once in 38 years? Had he totally given up?

Have you given up on God changing you? Have you fallen into sin so many times, you are ready to just give up?

So, you do not get open any more.

v. 8 Jesus: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk!

Jesus third sign/miracle. (2nd Official’s son John 4 a Gentile believes)

1. Reveals God’s glory.

2. Produces belief. a tell us about Jesus?

He said Get up!!! At once!!!! To be healed, you need to get up and take action!

What else do you see here about the man’s response?

Had to trust Jesus

The cure was sudden and complete.

If we will be cured of our sin, we need to trust God and take action.

If we do, the cure is sudden and complete. (Acts 2:38)

v. 9-10 Now we discover that the Pharisees watching Jesus’ every move.

“It is the Sabbath.” A male-ego thing? Jesus publicly flaunting their authority?

Here this guy was crippled for 38 years, and they are worried about their silly rule.

v. 11 The guy who healed me said to pick up my mat. What can I say.

5:13 The man did not know who Jesus was. Surprising! The Jewish leaders did! Jesus had overturned the tables in the temple (John 2:13-17)

v. 14 Jesus Stop sinning! Believing and even obeying not enough. We need to continue repenting.

v. 15 Thanks a lot! There is no evidence that this man came to believe.

So, why did Jesus heal him?

1. Compassion.

2. To make a point about the Sabbath.

John 5:16-30

v. 17 “My father is always at work.” I have authority over the Sabbath.

An unresolvable conflict between the Pharisees and Jesus.

John 5:18 They tried all the more to kill him… Why?

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

[the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Mark 2:27 Lord of the Sabbath Matt 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5]

Jesus, fearless, doubles down on these Pharisees

v. 21 “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives live to whom he is pleased to give it.

v. 22 The Father entrusts all judgment to the Son.

Jesus claims to be equal to God.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.” (v. 24)

Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath, (and of booths, Passover)

1. Jesus greater than/ Lord of the Sabbath Jn 5:1-18

2. Passover points to Jesus Jn 6:1-70

3. Booths/Tabernacles point to Jesus. Jn 7:1-9:41

4. Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) points to Jesus. Jn 10

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, but he is also one greater than Moses.

John 5:31-39 Testimony about Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus?

Jesus: There are three things which testify about me:

a. John the Baptist (v. 31-35)

b. The miracles (the very works I am doing)

This is why I originally believed in Jesus. Miracle-worker.

Water to wine

Heals official’s son

Heals paralytic at pool of Bethsaida

Feeds 5000

Walks on water

Heals man born blind

Resurrection of Lazarus

c. Prophecy/Scripture (v. 39) How can I count the ways…?

What about you? Do you believe the testimony of Jesus?

John 5:41-47

v. 41 I do not accept glory from humans (but you do!)

Whose testimony do you care about? Whose opinion do you care about?

v. 44 Who do you seek glory from? Your boss? Your friends? Your family?

Humans or God?

5:45 Your accuser is Moses (the Old Testament) I am greater than Moses.

If you believed Moses, you would believe me (and therefore would not be offended that I healed on the Sabbath). You are rejecting Moses

BTW In chapter 6 Jesus is going to feed/give bread to multitudes, proving himself to be greater than moses.

Then he is going to walk on water—his version of Moses parting the water.

Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus is “the one greater than Moses” Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me (Moses) from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

What about you?

Who will you listen to?

Who will you seek glory from?

Jesus, who did amazing miracles

Jesus who is literally the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament?

Do you REALLY want to get well?

Here is what you need to do.

Get up and walk.

And stop sinning.

Come to Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath.

The fulfillment of Passover

The fulfillment of Tabernacle

The fulfillment of dedication

The one greater than Moses.

Come to Jesus

Come to Jesus who said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.” (v. 24)