BLESSED HOPE



BIBLE CHURCH

Blessed Hope Bible Church

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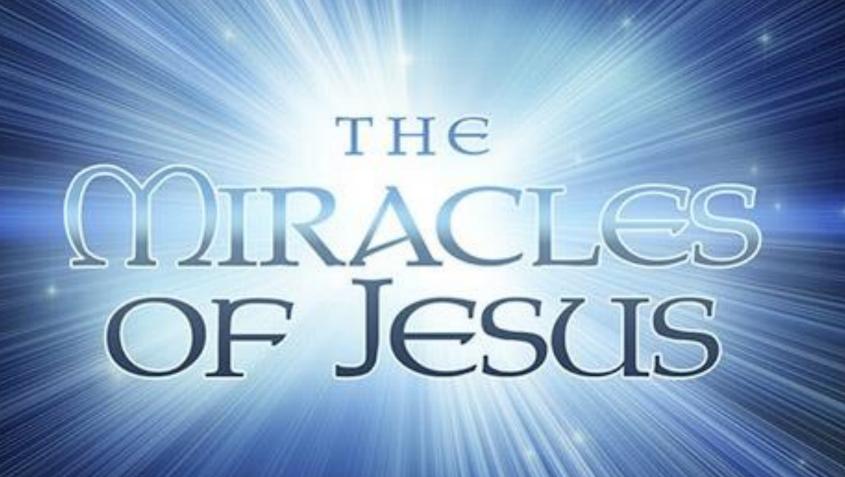




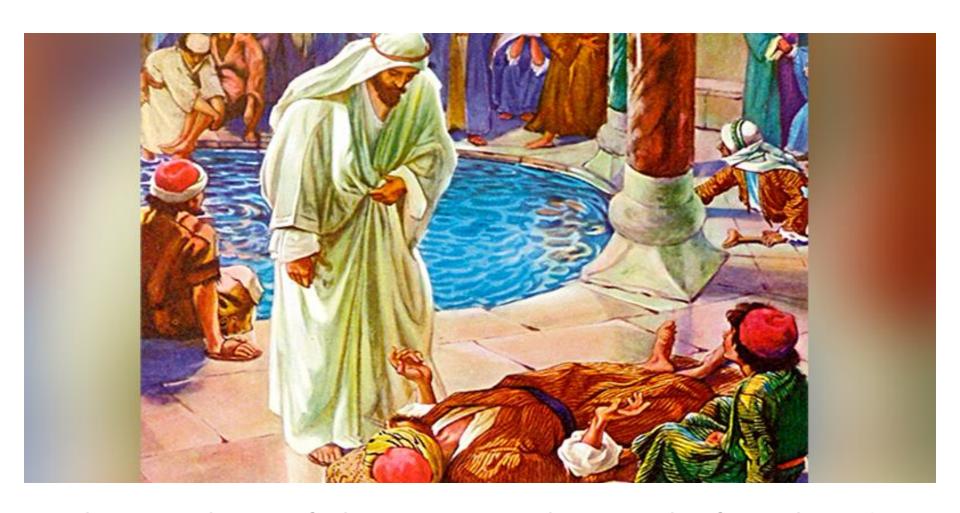
Learning ... Loving ... Leaning ... Living ... Leading ...

By the Word of God





OMNIPOTENCE CONFRONTS IMPOTENCE



The Healing of the Man at the Pool of Bethesda John 5:1-23

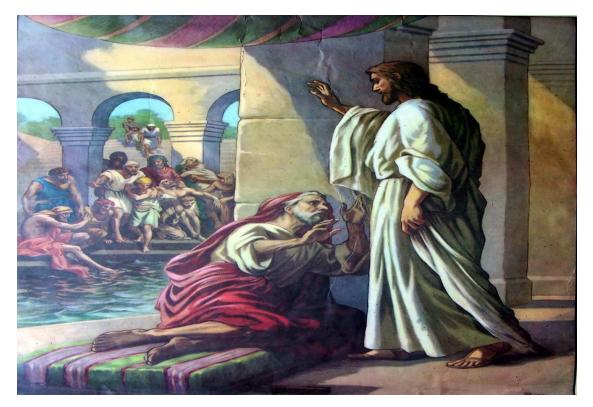
INTRODUCTION

 The healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda beautifully illustrates this truth:



- Bethesda means "House of mercy," and mercy was what the ailing man experienced beside the pool of Bethesda.
- Mercy is also what the Christian experienced when he was made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:4)
- The whole miracle of the healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda shows how Jesus, the Son of God, can show mercy to a man, who is helpless and hopeless before a holy and just God.

- Lesson: The Lord Jesus Christ has the sovereign right and prerogative to give mercy to the helpless and hopeless (to whom He wants, and when He wants).
- From the miracle of the healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda, we will observe three scenes that teach this truth.

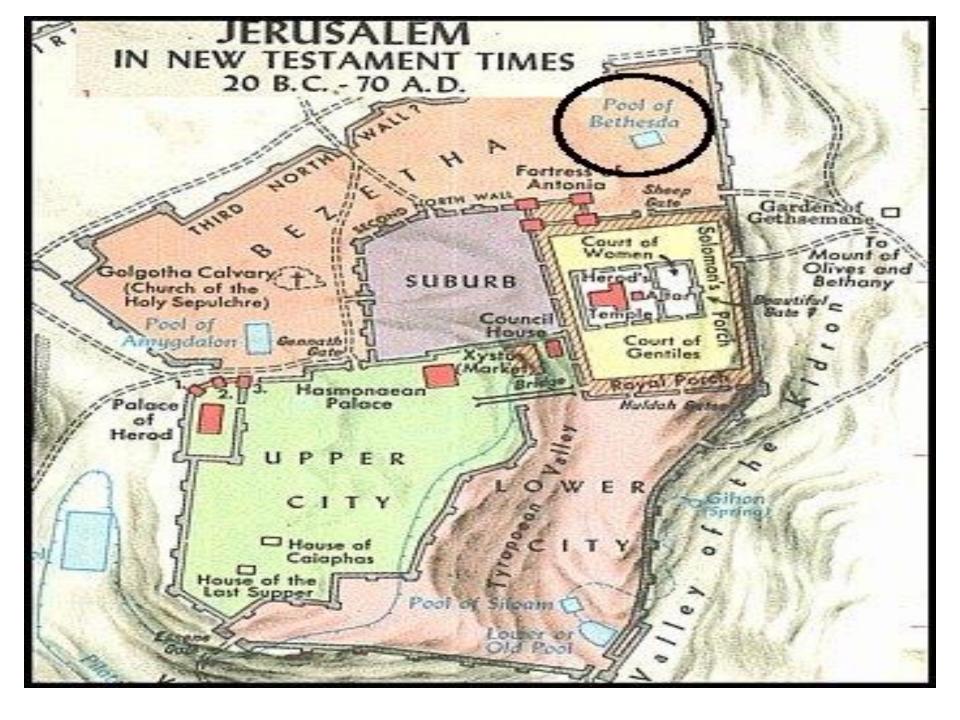


THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MIRACLE John 5:1-5

- The Time: An Unnamed feast identifies the time of the miracle
 - It might have been the **Passover** in April which commemorated the death angel passing over the first born of Israel in Egypt.
 - It might have been **Purim** in March which commemorated the deliverance of the Jews from Haman's plot to exterminate them (cf., Esther 3:7; 9:17-22)

- The Place: In Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there was a pool called "Bethesda" in the Hebrew, which had five porches.
- The Scene: Under the shelters of the pool lay a large group of sick people: blind, lame, paralyzed, all of them helpless and hopeless.
 - They were waiting for the moving of the water in the pool.
 - They believed that an angel periodically moved the waters, and whoever stepped into the waters first would be healed off whatever disease they had.
 - For these people, the moving of the waters in the pool was proof of God's presence in the waters





- The Focus: Our attention is suddenly drawn to one man in particular.
 - He has an unknown infirmity for thirty-eight years,
 one that made him unable to walk.
 - It is unknown how long he had been coming to the pool, but it must have long enough for him to be in the depths of despair and frustration.
 - He was never able to make it to the pool first, when the waters were stirred, and he had no one to show him compassion and help him.

- The Significance: The physical afflictions that these people had were real, and they believed that only by a supernatural intervention from God could they be healed.
 - This scene is a vivid picture of the helplessness and hopelessness of man due to the results of sin.
 - Sickness exists as the result of the existence of sin in the world, which came through Adam.
 - Sickness reminds us that we are all sinners and that we are in a helpless and hopeless situation before a holy God.
 - Sickness reminds us that we need a supernatural intervention from God to deliver us from the results and consequences of sin (e.g., like these people at the pool, we cannot heal ourselves, nor get healing from a doctor or from taking some kind of medicine).

THE CONDUCTION OF THE MIRACLE John 5:6-9

- The Question of Jesus: Do you want to be made well?
 - The Lord saw man lying there (I.e., He took notice of the man's helpless and hopeless situation)
 - The Lord knew that he had been in that condition a long time (i.e., He knew of the man's helpless and hopeless condition)
 - The Lord asked the man a crucial question (i.e., He exposed the man's inability to help himself).

- The Answer of the man: "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."
 - He realized his helplessness—no one will help me.
 - He realized his hopelessness-- another steps down before me.
 - He exposed his vain hope—he believed in the power of the pool, that the waters itself would heal.
 - Notice: Even today, many people put vain hope in people, places, and things rather than in God.
 - Note this too: Before anyone can receive the grace of God in salvation, they must first realize their helpless and hopeless situation before God!!

- The Command of Jesus: "Rise, take up your bed and walk."
 - This command implies that the healing was a sovereign act of Christ based upon His willful sovereign choice!
 - Christ was NOT obligated in any way to heal this man.
 - Christ took the initiative Himself to heal this man, it was NOT based on what the man did or did not do!
 - Christ decided whom He will and will not heal (e.g., out of all those sick people at the pool, only this man was healed).
 - This command implies a response of faith and obedience (i.e., human responsibility on the man's part was the difference between healing and sickness.
 - The healing was immediate, instantaneous, and complete
 - But the man had to take up his bed and walk!

- The Significance: Healing from God is based upon a response of faith in His command.
 - God now commands all people everywhere to repent (cf., Acts 17:30)
 - Each one's response to the command to repent is the difference between life and death
 - By grace are we saved through faith.
 - Faith is not the cause of salvation, it is the channel through which the grace of God comes to us.
 - Faith does NOT provide salvation, faith receives the salvation that has already been provided.
 - E.g., you cannot receive salvation based upon what you want to believe, you must believe God's word!

THE CONTROVERSY OF THE MIRACLE John 5:10-18

• The Confrontation between the Jews and the Impotent Man: The Jewish leaders complained that the man was working on the Sabbath (e.g., bearing burdens was specifically forbidden, cf., Jer.17:21)

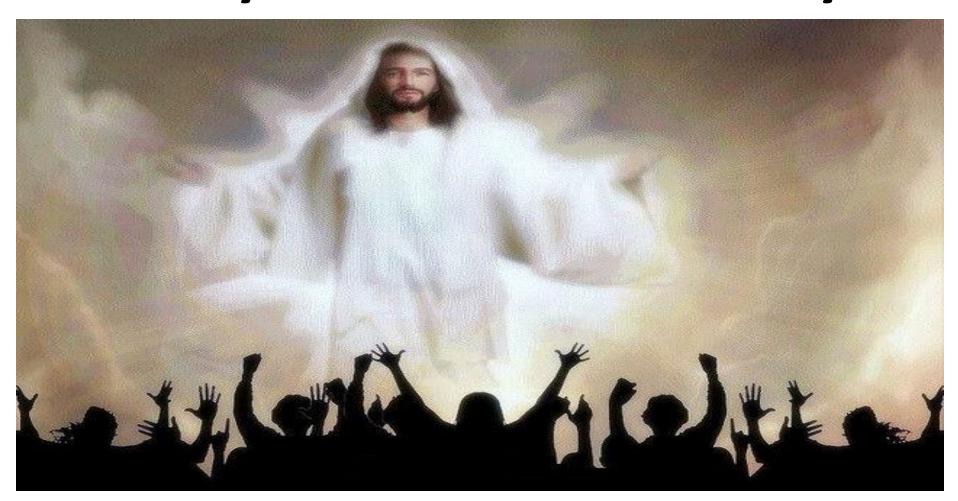


- The Confrontation between Jesus and the Impotent man: "See, you have been made well.
 Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."
 - This statement implies that some sickness is the direct result of personal sin.
 - Sickness is not always the direct result of personal sin (cf., John 9:1-4), however, some sickness is the result of immoral and unwise decisions on our part.
 - Note: The man departed and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.
 - This action was an attempt on the part of the man to clear his name by blaming Jesus for the violation of the Sabbath
 - Did this man truly respect Jesus for who He was??

- The Confrontation between the Jews and Jesus: The Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him.
 - The hostility of the Jews: Jesus had done these things on the Sabbath (i.e., proof to them that He was a fraud, false teacher, agent of the devil).
 - The answer of Jesus: My Father has been working until now, and I have been working (i.e., the claim that He is equal with the Father).

- The Significance: Jesus has the sovereign right and prerogative to give mercy to the helpless and hopeless (e.g., to anyone He chooses at any time He chooses) because He is equal to the Father!!
 - He does what the Father does (i.e., He does not work independently of the Father, He works in inseparable union with the Father—having the same goal, the same purpose, the same agenda, and the same methods).
 - As a result, He gives life to whom He wills, just as the Father does.
 - As a result, He executes judgment, just as the Father does,
 - As a result, He commands honor (i.e., reverential fear, respect, and devotion), just as the Father does.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU Have you received His mercy?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR TODAY!!





- Acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, <u>died</u> on the cross for your sin, and that He <u>arose</u> again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- **3. Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.