

The Lame Man & Jesus' Claim

John Chapter Five

Three feasts required all Jewish males to come to Jerusalem: (1) the feast of the Passover & unleavened bread, (2) the feast of the weeks, called Pentecost, and (3) the feast of tabernacles. This chapter occurs likely during one of these feasts. The lame man in this passage had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years and is now healed on the Sabbath day (v.1-9). The Jews complain, condemn Jesus' actions, and seek to kill him, because he had done this on the Sabbath (v. 10-16). Jesus however defends his conduct, and declares from the testimony of God the Father, the Scriptures, John the Baptist, and his own works, that he came from God, to be the light and salvation of the world, (v. 17-39). He rebukes the Jews for their defiance (40); absence of Godly love (41,42); pride (43,44); and disbelief of their own law (45-47).

Read John 5:1-8

A man who is afflicted and desperate for help - A real life analogy of every sinner who is lost and separated from God by his iniquities (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23). Regardless of what he tries, the sinner is still lost and unable to walk in the ways of God. We are all still dead in sin (or paralyzed) until we receive the healing and life giving grace of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:1-3).

v. 2 - Bethesda, literally translates, the house of mercy. It got this name from healing properties believed to be within these waters. The very fact that he is at this pool is evidence that this man is seeking healing. When Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed (v.6), his response is basically "Well I'm trying to get in the water". The sick man does what most of us do. We limit God to our own ideas and strategies and confine Him to what we can conceive in our mind.

Read John 5:9-18

v.8-9 - Jesus just told this man to do something that he hasn't been able to do in 38 years, if ever. However, all that is required on the part of this man is simple, child like faith and obedience to the instruction of Jesus. **Look up: Mark 10:15**

v.10 - John (himself a Jew) uses the term "the Jews" in the sense of the Jewish leaders, not every Jew in Jerusalem.

Carrying a sleeping-mat was in fact a violation of the rabbis' interpretation of the commandment against doing work on the Sabbath. It was not a breaking of God's law, but the human interpretation of God's law.

The Bible clearly says that God does not need sleep or rest (Psalm 121:3-4). God's loving acts of grace and mercy do not stop on the Sabbath. The rest of God on the seventh day was given as a demonstration for man's benefit. God designed a day free of distractions and labor so His people would worship Him. Obviously many today have no choice but to work on the "Sabbath" to provide for their families. Quality time spent with God and other believers however is essential and non-negotiable. **Look up: Luke 10:38-42, Hebrews 10:24-25**

v.14 – Just like new believers today, after our salvation (or healing), we need to be discipled (or educated). Jesus found the man because He was concerned for his spiritual health, not just his physical health. Living a life of sin will bring a worse result than being crippled for thirty-eight years.

Read John 5:19-30

The relationship between the First and Second members of the Trinity is of Father and Son, united by love, acting as one, but separate (John 1:1). Jesus, God the Son, does nothing independently. He is fully submitted to the Father's will. Like the Father, the Son has the power to give everlasting life and the authority of the Father to judge all.

v. 29 - As those who embrace Jesus will need resurrection bodies to enjoy the glories of heaven, so those who reject Him will have resurrection bodies to endure the terrors of Hell. **Look up: Romans 14:11**

Read John 5:31-47

v.33-35 - John the Baptist was a true witness of Jesus, but the religious leaders did not receive his testimony regarding the identity of Jesus. **Look up: Matthew 3:16-17**

v.36 - Every aspect of the works of Jesus testified to his being . The majority of the miraculous works of Jesus were simple acts of compassion and mercy, done for simple, needy people. These works bear witness to the heart of God. The Jews looked for a miraculous Messiah, but they did not look for One who would express His miraculous power in simple acts of compassion and mercy. They wanted a Messiah to use miraculous power to bring political deliverance to Israel.

v.37 – **Look up: Luke 3:22**

v. 45-46- These religious leaders rejected Jesus and they rejected God's word through Moses. Moses accuses them because Moses wrote about Jesus (the Messiah to come) and they did not receive the testimony of Moses.

Look up: Deuteronomy 18:15, Luke 24:27,44