

HEALING ON THE SABBATH

Pastor Stephen Baker

Study of John / John 5:1-18

Introduction (1)

Last week we studied the healing of the nobleman's son in [John 4](#). Now, to [John 5](#) and we'll study another miracle. John said, *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* ([John 20:30-31](#)) So these miracles were given so that we would believe in Jesus Christ. This was a miracle of divine deliverance.

I. The Deliverance Place. (2-4)

([John 5:4](#)) This verse is not supported by our oldest existing manuscripts. However, the early church father, Tertullian mentioned it several hundred years before our oldest manuscripts were written. Something had to be happening at the pool, otherwise people would not wait there for deliverance. People were being healed! The Jews believed that there was an angel that stirred the waters.

II. The Deliverance Person. (5-9)

III. The Deliverance Problem. (10-13)

IV. The Deliverance Proclamation. (14-18)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

1. (4) There is debate amongst Christians as to whether this verse should be in the Bible. It does not have much manuscript support. However, early in church history, Tertullian mentioned it.
 - a. Those who think it shouldn't be in the Bible, say that it is a superstitious belief, and "Why would the angel have people compete to get in the water to be healed?"
 - b. On the other hand, those who say it should be in the Bible bring up the fact that something had to be happening at the pool, because the water was being troubled, and people were being healed. The angel is a good explanation and that is what the Jews believed was happening.
 - c. Does the fact that there is debate about this verse shake your faith in the accuracy of Scripture? Why not?
2. (6) Why do you think Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be made whole? Why is it important for us to desire God's deliverance?
3. (7) The man did not answer Jesus' question from verse 6. Why do you think he said what he said?
4. Calvin wrote: "This diseased man does what almost all of us are wont to do; for he limits the assistance of God according to his own thought and does not venture to promise to himself anything more than he conceives in his mind."
 - a. Why do you think we only expect God's deliverance with the means that we can work out in our own minds?
 - b. Why don't we expect God to do things that are beyond us?
5. (15-16) The man told the Jews that Jesus had healed him. They persecuted Jesus.
 - a. Do you think the man was telling on Jesus to avoid the anger of the religious leaders because he had broken their Sabbath laws?
 - b. Or was the man witnessing for Jesus?
 - i. If he was telling on Him, then it is evident that the man was not yet a believer.
 - ii. How does God use grace before we are saved to lead us to a place of faith and repentance?