

Series: John

Title: Righteous Healing Love

Text: Jn 5: 1-9

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**John 5: 1: After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2: Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3: In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4: For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5: And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 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? 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. 8: Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9: And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.**

The Lord Jesus went to this feast because he came to fulfill the law for his people. It matters not which feast this was because Christ is the fulfillment of the whole law for his people. He was typified in every shadow of the feasts. Christ honored, magnified and fulfilled the law so that the law says, “Justified” to all his people!

Love for God and his people is that righteous fulfillment of the law. All the law is fulfilled in this “thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” *In love* he laid down his life for his people. *In love* he bore the shame of our sin—he healed his people by bearing our sin that caused our disease. *In love* he bore the curse of the law for us—he suffered the hell of separation for his people which the law required of us. *In love*, he bore the accusations of devils and a contradiction of sinners against himself; another time we will see the Pharisee’s judge him as breaking the sabbath day because he healed a helpless sinner and gave him rest in Christ our true Sabbath

**Proposition:** In what Christ did here we see his perfect righteous love in coming to his redeemed and healing us through faith.

## THE POOL

**John 5: 2: Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.**

This pool was by the sheep market. Farmers sold their sheep and they were kept here. Men bought sheep to sale for sacrifice in the temple. Historians say this pool was used to wash the sheep. Christ is the Pool in whom his sheep are washed from all our sins.

Zechariah 13: 1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Isaiah 1:18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

“Bethesda” means house of mercy. Christ is Mercy. Wherever he establishes his gospel he is there. That place is Bethesda, the house of mercy.

There were five porches around this pool. There are five books in the law of Moses. Here we have “Bethesda”—mercy and we have “five porches”—justice. In Christ dying in place of his people mercy and justice have met in harmony. He justified his people from the law that God might be just to shower his child in mercy.

## THE IMPOTENT FOLK

**John 5: 2:...five porches [around the pool] 3: In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.**

The whole of humanity from Adam to the last child born into this world make up “*a great multitude of impotent folk.*”—powerless—blind, halt, withered. The kinfolk of these people brought them here because no man could heal them. The impotent folk were powerless, helpless and useless to anyone. This is an example of every sinner born of Adam.

Again, there were “five porches”—there are five books in the law of Moses. The law declares all guilty before God. Like as these folks were bound to those porches, every sinner is bound to the law in guilt and condemnation.

Our sin-nature received from Adam makes us all *impotent folk*—powerless to work out a righteousness and make ourselves holy and accepted of God. We are blind with no spiritual sight. By our sin nature we are halt and unable to walk. We are withered so that our bodily members are useless to save or contribute to salvation beginning to end.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:19 For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Here is the love of Christ toward truly helpless sinners. While the Pharisee’s and the majority of people were engaged in their outward form of religion in the temple, calling it righteousness and holiness with envy, malice and guile in their hearts, Christ came to this place where the impotent folk lay. While the proud religionists avoided these poor impotent sinners as the refuse of society, Christ came to them. In love Christ came down to save the worst of the worst sinners. He came to make his elect whole by his righteousness.

## **THE REASON THEY WERE THERE**

**John 5: 4: For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.**

Whether this really happened or was superstition I do not know. But we see positive and negative lessons in this.

First the negative. Due to the fact these impotent folks were waiting for a sign in that carnal pool wanting only wanted a physical cure, they did not see Christ as he walked right among them. Christ is the great Physician who heals spiritually. But they were waiting to see a sign in a certain season. Therefore they missed Christ who is the Sign. The season is now. Can you imagine how they felt when Christ healed this man? They missed Christ waiting for a carnal sign. Sinner call on Christ while he is near. Today is the day of grace.

Here is a positive. Christ is the Sign. Christ is the Lord that healeth thee. He is the Cure. Christ is THE Angel of the Covenant. They were waiting for a certain season. In the fulness of time Christ came down and bore the trouble that troubled God’s elect. In the season of his love Christ comes in Spirit and troubles his child with the water of the word revealing our need of him.

Another positive is this, when they saw the water troubled, knowing the first one who stepped in was made whole, think of how they all pressed to be the first in the water. When the Spirit of God reveals Christ—first hour to last—that is the urgency he gives his child to enter Christ by faith.

Luke 16:16: The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 13:24: Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

When THE Angel troubles the water we shall!

## RIGHTEOUS HEALING LOVE

**John 5: 5: And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 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? 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. 8: Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9: And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.**

This was “a certain man.” Christ came to save his elect. There were a multitude of impotent folk but Christ came to this certain man. *The Lord saw him lie*—Christ has seen his elect from eternity. He knows where each one is at all times. *The Lord knew he had been long time in that condition*—Christ knows his sheep, knows our condition, knows our need, knows how to call and keep his sheep.

What all has happened in your life in 38 years? This man lay helpless 38 years. Christ knew. But God has set the time for giving spiritual life, for chastening, for growing. He waited several days to go to Lazarus’ tomb. He will let us get well acquainted with our stink, our impotence, so we know he alone heals.

Get the question—*“He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?”* He did not ask are you willing to meet me half-way. The question was not are you willing to help me. He did not even ask are you willing to be whole. Of course he wanted to walk. The question is are you willing ‘TO BE MADE WHOLE.’ Are you willing for Christ alone to make you whole without any assistance from you? Are you willing for Christ to do all the saving?

Listen to the answer—*“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.”* The others had someone to help or had ability to get to the pool themselves. As bad as their condition, they looked at this man and said, “Well I’m not as bad as him; at least I have use of my limbs from the waist up.” But he said, *“I have no man!”* The Lord looked down from heaven,

Isaiah 59: 16: And he saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

There is no man. Christ alone is the Intercessor. Christ is the Arm of the Lord who worked out salvation for God’s elect. He alone is the Righteousness of God, the Righteousness of those he calls to faith.

Therefore, Christ is the Power and Wisdom by which we stand—*“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked.”* Scripture declares “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” It is not by merely hearing a sermon preached. It is not merely reading the word. Faith comes by Christ the Word speaking the word into our hearts—*“Jesus saith unto him...”*

Faith comes by Christ not one-time. It is by Christ continually speaking into the heart that Christ sustains and renews faith. It is only by the Spirit and Power of Christ that we mortify our flesh and believe on Christ. It will be Christ’s Word of Power that makes us rise up out of our dead body the moment we draw our last breath.

When was the impotent man made willing? When Christ said, *“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”*—*“immediately”*—before the man moved a muscle—*“the man was made whole.”* Christ makes us willing in the day of his power. When a sinner finds himself willing, Christ has already made him whole. When a believer is made willing to do whatever God will have us to do it is because Christ made us willing by his Word!

In the first hour, Christ finds us dead in our sins with no power and Christ makes us whole by his word through faith. He told this man to go and sin no more lest a worst thing come upon him. Every hour after the Lord gives faith if we think we stand by some ability in us, Christ teaches us it is not so.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

How easily we look at ourselves and think we stand. So Christ keeps his child knowing we have no man. Christ is the Friend that sticks closer than a brother. Christ is the Brother born for adversity. That teaches us of Christ's meekness and lowliness to continue to teach and receive his sinful people.

Now catch this word "*and on the same day was the sabbath.*" Christ came to the feast to fulfill all righteousness for his people. In love Christ fulfilled the righteousness of the law for his people. In love Christ comes and takes the crippling burden of the law's curse off us. By God-given faith in Christ, we enter into Christ our Rest. He is our Sabbath. This man was no longer bound to those five porches! Through faith in Christ we are no longer bound to the law. We rest knowing there is now no condemnation. Now we walk by the power of Christ in faith and love. Christ shall keep us by his power every step until he speaks into our lifeless body and says, "Arise, take up thy bed" and immediately we shall fly away.

**Amen!**