

## Healing At the Pool Of Bethesda

John 5:1-47

Part 5

### Introduction.

1. For the past 4 weeks we have been carefully studying the “Healing At The Pool Of Bethesda” and the teachings of our Lord that followed this “sign” [miracle] in John 5.
2. Last week we studied some witnesses that the One who healed the crippled man at Bethesda was Jesus, God’s Son.
  - a. Jesus appealed to: (1) God’s witness (2) Witness of John (3) Witness of His works.
  - b. The lesson was concluded by examining Jesus’ appealing to the witness of His Father a second time.
3. This final lesson on the “Healing At The Pool Of Bethesda” will begin by examining the powerful “Witness of the Scriptures.”

### The Witness of the Scriptures

4<sup>th</sup> Witness

#### **John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;**

1. In the original Greek “Search” can be imperative “Search” or indicative “you search” and either translation makes sense.
  - a. It could be a command to search the Scriptures.
  - b. It can also be a statement referring to their practice of searching the Old Testament scriptures.
  - c. They were persuaded the scriptures, plus their traditions, would lead to eternal life.
  - d. The problem was they searched the scriptures with eyes that were blinded by their preconceived ideas and in light of human traditions.
  - e. They were blinded by their ignorance of the Scriptures and refusal to believe Jesus was God’s Son.
2. The context favors “you search” as translated by the NASB because Jesus was making His argument on the basis of their use of the Scriptures.
3. The word “think” is used in the sense of being fully persuaded - not a statement of doubt or uncertainty.
  - a. See 1 Cor. 7:40; 10:12; Jas. 1:26.

1 Cor 7:40 But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and **I think** [am sure] that I also have the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him **who thinks** [fully persuaded] he stands take heed that he does not fall.

James 1:26 If **anyone thinks** himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his {own} heart, this man's religion is worthless.

b. These are examples of “think” being used with the idea of being “fully persuaded.”

4. They were pretending to be persuaded that the Scriptures were the word of God, but rejected what God had prophesied about His Son.

a. They ignored or rejected the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm that spoke of the suffering of the Messiah. (Psa. 22:16-18).

Ps 22:16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.

Ps 22:17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

Ps 22:18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

b. They also ignored or rejected Isaiah 53 that taught the Messiah would be rejected and die for the sins of mankind. (Isa. 53:4-6).

Is 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Is 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Is 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

5. They had rejected God’s word in many other ways and also sought to void God’s commandments by their traditions. (Matt. 15:7-9).

Matt 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

Matt 15:8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

Matt 15:9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'"

a. They claimed to honor God by keeping His commandments.

b. They had, however, twisted and negated God’s commandments by their traditions.

**John 5:40 and you are unwilling to come to [obey] Me so that you may have life.**

1. It is tragic that these men who claimed to believe the Scriptures rejected the One of whom the Scriptures prophesied and refused to come to Him.

2. These men, and others like them, loved the darkness rather than the light. (Jn. 3:19).

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

3. They loved being the center of attention and receiving glory from men. (Matt. 6:1-6).

**John 5:41 "I do not receive glory from men;**

- This is an ellipsis meaning He did not primarily seek or receive the glory of man.

- He did receive “glory from men,” but this was not what was the most important thing to Him.

1. Jesus was unlike the Jewish leaders who loved the glory and praise of men. (Jn. 5:44; 12:43, 44; Matt. 6:1).

John 5:44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the {one and} only God?"

John 12:43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

John 12:44 And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me.

Matt 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2. Jesus always diligently sought the glory of the Father. (Jn. 7:18; 12:28; 17:4).

Jn. 7:18 "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him

Jn. 12:28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

Jn. 17:4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

3. Paul and the other apostles did not seek the glory of men. (1 Thess. 2:6; Gal. 6:14).

1 Thess. 2:6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

Gal. 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

4. Today we should be seeking God’s glory. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:31).

Matt 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1 Cor 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**John 5:42 but I know you [Jewish leaders], that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.**

1. The Bible speaks of God’s amazing love for man. (Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:1; 4:9, 10, 16, 19; Jn.15:9).

2. These Jewish leaders did not love God nor His Son.

3. They claimed to love God, but rejected His beloved Son and thus rejected God. (Lk. 10:16; Jn. 5:23).

Luke 10:16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

John 5:23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

4. They falsely claimed to love God, but were rejecting His commandments. (1 Jn. 5:3).

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

**John 5:43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.**

1. The "Father's name" occurs frequently in John's gospel. (Jn. 5:43; 10:25; 12:28; 17:6, 11, 12, 26).

2. They were rejecting the One who came by the authority of the Father. (Jn. 1:11; 3:11, 32; 12:37).

John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

John 3:11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

John 3:32 "What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

John 12:37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, {yet} they were not believing in Him.

3. They were fulfilling the prophecy made in Isaiah 53:3. See again Jn. 1:11.

Is 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

4. They would receive one who had no authority from the Father, but came by his own authority.

5. They would readily listen to false messiahs who preached what they wanted to hear. (Mk. 13:6, 21, 22).

Mk. 13:6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many."

Mk. 13:21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him;

Mk. 13:22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect."

**John 5:44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only* God?"**

1. Their belief was hindered by their constant seeking of one another's glory. (Matt. 6:1; Jn. 12:42,43).

Matt. 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Jn. 12:42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;

Jn. 12:43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

2. Seeking one another's glory was far more important to them than seeking the glory of the "one and only God."

3. They honored God with their lips, but **their hearts were far from Him.** (Matt. 15:7, 8).

Matt 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

Matt 15:8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

**John 5:45 "Do not think that I [am the only One who] will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.**

1. Jesus was not the only One who would accuse them "before the Father."

a. Jesus will accuse men of neglecting His followers in that last day. (Matt. 25:41-46).

b. Jesus will accuse and condemn those who called Him "Lord, lord" but refused to do God's will. (Matt. 7:21-23).

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven {will enter.}

Matt 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

Matt 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

2. Moses would also accuse them of sin because they were rejecting the One of whom Moses wrote.

3. Moses would not be their advocate before the Father, but would be their accuser before God because they were rejecting his teaching concerning the Messiah.

4. The words "have set your hope" are in the perfect tense in the Greek that is a past action with abiding results.

5. Their hope in Moses was a present hope, and not simply a past state of mind.

**John 5:46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.**

1. Moses had prophesied the coming of Christ in Genesis 49:10.

Gen. 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

2. Moses spoke of the great prophet to come - the One to whom men must hearken. (Deut. 18:15-19).

Deut. 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

Deut. 18:16 "This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.'

Deut. 18:17 "The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well.

Deut. 18:18 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deut. 18:19 'It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

**John 5:47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**

1. The writings of Moses prophesied the coming of Jesus, but if they did not really believe his writings they would not believe the words of the One of whom Moses wrote.
2. They were also rejecting the words of David, Isaiah, Micah and others who spoke of the coming Messiah.
3. Jesus recognized Moses as the author of the Pentateuch just as John the Baptist did. (Jn. 1:17).

John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

- a. Moses did not write every word of the Pentateuch, but he was the primary author of the first 5 books of the Old Testament.
- b. He did not write Numbers 12:3 praising himself.

Num. 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.) See "meek" ASV.

- 1) It was wrong for one to praise himself. (Prov. 27:2).

Prov 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

- 2) It is not known who wrote these words about Moses.

- c. Moses obviously did not record his own death, but some unknown man, such as, Joshua. (Deut. 34:5-12).

Deut. 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Deut. 34:6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day.

Deut. 34:7 Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

Deut. 34:8 So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.

Deut. 34:9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Deut. 34:10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

Deut. 34:11 for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land,

Deut. 34:12 and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

## **Conclusion.**

1. The healing of the crippled man at the pool of Bethesda manifested the mercy and power of Jesus.
2. It confirmed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. (Jn. 20:30-31).
3. The study of the words of Jesus following this great miracle at the pool of Bethesda give us a much better understanding of the true identity of Jesus and what is expected of those who want eternal life with the Father and the Son.

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