

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Eleven

Healing the Man at the Pool of Bethesda

Text: John 5:1-16

Introduction:

1. In Capernaum, Jesus healed a paralyzed man before the Pharisees, scribes, and doctors of the law.
2. But, before He healed him, Jesus forgave his sins – using the miracle to prove His deity.
3. Following this, Jesus continued to antagonize the legalism of the Pharisees by calling Matthew, a publican, to be one of His disciples and then eating at his house (Mark 2:13-17).
4. Soon thereafter, there was a feast day and Jesus traveled to Jerusalem.
5. Here, He approached the Pool of Bethesda and performed another great miracle.

I. The Miracle

- A. There was a man at Bethesda who had an infirmity – “weakness of body, feebleness, frailty” – that had plagued him for 38 years.
- B. Jesus asked him, “Wilt thou be made whole?”
- C. Then, Jesus spoke the word and the man was healed immediately.

II. The Manifestation

- A. This miracle declares two very important truths about Jesus.
- B. First, His power was real and valid.
 1. The name Bethesda means, “house of mercy.”
 2. Apparently, the waters had some healing properties.
 3. However, a story had been attached to this pool that healing was made available by the working of an angel. {Whether or not this is true, we do not know.}
 4. Those gathered around the Pool of Bethesda reminds us of people in our time who wait for the false miracles of modern day “faith healers.”
 5. Notice that the infirm man was so attached to this pool as his only means of healing that he almost missed seeing Jesus for who He really was.
 6. Yet, Jesus was able to heal Him instantly by the power of His word.
- C. Second, His power proved His authority – He is Lord even of the Sabbath.
 1. When Jesus performed this miracle, the Pharisees objected to the healed man carrying his bed. {Remember that he had been sick for 38 years!}
 2. However, he understood the connection between Jesus’ power and authority.
 3. Jesus uses this as an opportunity to teach the Jews about His true nature.

III. The Message

- A. Notice that Jesus did not heal everyone at the Pool of Bethesda – for, His miracles had a greater purpose.
- B. When Jesus asks a question, it is to focus our attention on important truths.
- C. There is something worse than physical infirmity – spiritual death.