

John 5:1-17

In [John 4:46-54](#), Jesus heals the royal official's son who was sick and at the point of death. This situation that brought about a miracle in the way of a physical healing provided a bigger miracle: a spiritual healing. The father, the sick son, and his whole household believed. We live in a church culture that puts the biggest and sometimes the emphasis on physical healing. However, physical healing means nothing in comparison to spiritual healing. One may be healed physically, but if the miracle of regeneration and salvation is not upon them, they will not only die a physical death someday, but also a spiritual death which is eternal punishment in a lake of fire. We seen an example of spiritual healing taking priority over physical healing in the story of the paralyzed man being let down through the roof by his friends. They came looking for a miracle via physical healing, but Jesus performed the greatest miracle that would ever happen to Him: Jesus would forgive his sins. After forgiving his sins, He healed him physically. This story is found in [Mark 2:1-13](#).

Verses 1-4

After Jesus performed the second sign of healing the royal official's sick son in Galilee, He traveled south back to Jerusalem. Jesus attends a feast, but we are unaware of the feast. This is the only time where the name of the festival is unnamed. He came to a pool that was located on the outside of the sheep gate (north wall of the city) and that had five porticoes/porches. This pool was a local gathering spot for those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered. This pool was called Bethesda which means "house of mercy. The last part of verse 3 and all of verse 4 are not in the early manuscripts.

Verses 5-7

This story focuses on one man who had been ill for 38 years. This man was most likely a well-known face to the people and had been seen by many people sitting and waiting for his opportunity to be healed. This man was someone that the people who have been familiar with and the extent of his disability. Jesus asks a seemingly unusual question. He asks this man who has been ill for 38 years if he wanted to be well. He could have been asking to make the man look deep within and recognize the helplessness of his condition and to elicit an increased desire to be healed. He wants the man to reflect on how different his life will be if he is healed. Many people afflicted with physical ailments or similar inconveniences begin to be satisfied and almost dependent on the attention and sympathy they may receive and have a learned helplessness they become accustomed to which brings about a desire not to be healed or changed. Rather than directly answering Jesus' question, he shifts the blame to others as for the reason he has not been healed. We see that the behavior of blaming others is not new as Adam blamed Eve for him eating the tree. ([Genesis 3:12](#)).

Verses 8-9

Jesus' words spoke the universe and the world into existence, healed the royal official's son, and now heals this man who had been afflicted for 38 years. At the command of Jesus this man takes up his pallet and began to walk immediately. Disease and death have no power over our Lord. His words are powerful accomplishing all He desires. His effectual call always brings about His desired effect. This act of healing a sovereign act from the omnipotent God. The crux of the matter revolving around this healing was that it was performed on the Sabbath.

Verses 10-14

There was no law in the Old Testament about not carrying a pallet on the Sabbath as was the case with this man, but rather this was imposed by the Pharisees according to the traditions of men (**Mark 7:1-13**). These Pharisees are so cold, uncaring, and legalistic that they do not even stop to acknowledge or be happy for the healing of this man who they were most likely familiar with but were trying to create a dispute over carrying his pallet in a hyper legalistic manner. Again, this man shifts the blame to someone else. He previously blamed others for not helping him into the water and now he blames Jesus for him carrying the pallet. Jesus had just healed this man who had been lame for 38 years and the same voice that brought His healing is the same voice that commanded him to take up his pallet and carry it, to which he complied. When asked who it was who healed him and told him to pick up his pallet and walk, he was unaware that it was Jesus because Jesus had slipped into the crowd. Jesus will later come and find this man in the temple up walking and revealed that it was He who had healed him and told him to go and sin no more. The Bible does not teach that sin brings about every disease. However, there are examples where sin does bring illness and consequences (**1 Corinthians 11:29-30**). Jesus may also be implying that sin and its consequence is far worse than physical ailments.

Verses 15-16

This man after finding out it was Jesus who had healed him went and told the Jews. This is a critical point in the gospel according to John as we see the early stages of the persecution, questioning, and hostility of the Pharisees/Jews toward Christ which will only magnify as Jesus' ministry continues. They begin persecuting Jesus because He had healed on the Sabbath. This would not be an isolated event where the Pharisees questions Him about miracles, healing, and activities on the Sabbath could have chosen to perform these miracles on the Sabbath to elicit these conversations with the Pharisees to declare His truth and correct them. Jesus did not break any law as He fulfilled the whole righteous requirement of the Law (**Romans 8:1-4**). There was no law about doing good on the Sabbath but was rather a law that had been brought about by the Pharisees including with the traditions of the elders.

Verse 17

The Jew believed that God was working on the Sabbath to run the universe and keep all things held together. When Jesus claimed that His Father was working and so was He, they knew that He was making a deity claim which is why they were seeking to kill Him.

- **Colossians 1:15-17** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: ¹⁶for ^[b]by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He ^[c]is before all things, and in Him all things ^[d]hold together.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²^[a]in these last days has spoken to us ^[b]in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ^[c]world. ³^[d]And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and ^[e]upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus has power over sickness, disease, sin, and death. With the sound of His voice, He accomplishes all He desires according to His will as He is the omnipotent, sovereign God. He never stops working as He holds all things together by the power of His mighty word. The Pharisees persecute and want to kill Him because of His claims of deity. However, Jesus can claim deity because in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus is Ego Eimi, the great I AM!

