

John 5

John 5.1-8

-Note to the teacher: On the Internet, you can find several good paintings concerning this scene from the New Testament. You can download them and share them with the class.

V1 – The Jews had several yearly feasts: Purim, Pentecost, Booths, etc.

-**Which feast was the most important?** Passover

V2 - Notice present tense (still in existence when John wrote the fourth gospel)

-Look up a map of Jerusalem in New Testament times

-In the northwest corner of Jerusalem, there is a church building that now sits over what is believed to be this pool of water

-**What distinctive feature did the pool have?** Five porches (or openings for approaches)

V3-4 – Some controversy over v 3-4 - the New American Standard is correct to put this into the text

-Probably this pool was the last hope for these people

-Manuscripts omitting v 3-4: P66, Bodner MSS, Sinaiticus, Vaticanus

-Included: Alexandrinus and lesser manuscripts

V5 – **What do we find out about this man?** Sick for 38 years

-**What was the nature of his sickness?** V 7-8 - crippled or lame

-**Why mention how long he had been ill?** No deception, no known cures

V6 – **When else did Jesus show he already knew the background of a person?** Nathaniel, woman at the well

-**Why did Jesus question him?** To raise his anticipation

-**Regarding what?** Hope for a cure

V7 – **Does the man recognize Jesus as a healer?** No

-**What is the man's explanation for why he had not been cured?** No one to carry him into the pool

-Notice that the healing happened when the water was stirred up

-This man was friendless (he had outlived all his friends)

V8 – Note the short powerful statement of Jesus here

-**Was the man's healing based on his faith in Jesus?** No, there was no indication he even knew who Jesus was

-Sometimes people had faith; sometimes not

-He did obey Jesus after being healed (he picked up his pallet and walked)

John 5.9-17

V9-10 – **Who objected to this "miracle"?** Jews

Read Nehemiah 13:19-20 – Caravans were not allowed to bring in merchandise on the

Sabbath

-Was carrying a pallet a violation of *Nehemiah 13:19-20*? No

-We must be reasonable in our interpretation of the Scriptures

-Bro. Woods: Jews gave the man two choices: lay there on the pallet until sundown or leave pallet there where it might be stolen

-The Jews were not arguing the validity of the miracle, only with a highly technical interpretation of the old law

V 11 – This man was not brave; he has a rather interesting answer: *"The one who did the miracle told me to do this"*

-In other words, if you have power to do miracles, you can interpret the old law

V 12 – **What do the Jews want to know?** Who the man was (who performed the miracle)

V 13 - **Why couldn't the man answer?** He did not know Jesus' name; Jesus had disappeared!

-Maybe Jesus thought this was not the time or place for a confrontation with the Jews

V 14 – **What is the significance of finding the man in the temple?** The man was a faithful Jew

-**Why in the temple?** Maybe giving thanks

-**What was the meaning of Jesus' statement?** The lameness came from some sin the man had committed

-Some sins have direct physical consequences

V 15 – **What was the next action of the man?** He told the Jews that Jesus did it

-**Why?** Maybe he was not aware of their hostility; maybe he betrayed Jesus; maybe he was afraid

V 16 - **What was the result?** The Jews persecuted Jesus

V 17 – **What was the reply of Jesus?** He was doing the will of God

-Important: "My Father," a closeness with God that the Jews did not feel or have

-**What are the differences between this miracle and modern "miracles"?** There is no money involved, no questions that the healing was real, and no delay in healing

John 5.18-32

V 18 – **What two charges are brought against Jesus?** Breaking the Sabbath and making himself equal with God ("My Father")

-The difference between saying "my father" (same substance) and "our father" (different substance)

-**How upset were the Jews on this point?** They wanted to kill Jesus on the charge of blasphemy

V 19 – This verse shows the closed relationship between God the Father and God the Son

-The son's actions are in perfect harmony with the father's actions

-Father and Son are on the same level plane

-Their actions are equal

V 20 – God the Father loves the Son – greater works were coming

V 21 – **Was God able to raise the dead?** Yes

-Elijah and the widow's son - *1 Kings 17:22*

-Elisha – Shunammite's son - *2 Kings 4:32-35*

-Jesus will also raise the dead (spiritually and physically)

V 22 – **Who will be the final judge?** Jesus (*Acts 17:30-31*)

V 23 – Same honor to Son as to the Father

V 24 – We have a hold on eternal life, but we can lose it if we return to sin!

V 25 – "*Truly, truly*" – sign of a great statement about to be made (*1.51*) – a translation of "Amen"

-**Is Jesus talking about people literally dead?** No, the spiritually dead will "live" again

-**What does it mean to "hear"?** Be receptive

-Either we are searching for the truth or we have rejected it

V 26 – God is the source of life (literally and symbolically)

V 27 – **What is Jesus authorized to do?** Carry out "judgment" (condemnation)

-**What is the significance of "Son of Man"?** God and human = perfectly able to carry out justice and mercy

V 28 – The listeners must have expressed some surprise - over what?

-**What will occur at some point in future time?** All who are in the graves will come forth (general resurrection)

V 29 – Notice the sharp distinction between the two classes of people

-Denominational groups: "We can't do anything to save ourselves"

-**What does this verse say about that?** Good and bad deeds

-This verse = implications for premillennialism

-Not a seven year gap; not 1000 year gap

-Whatever is going to happen to righteous people will also happen to evil people – in the same hour

-No indication otherwise unless we force doctrine on the Scriptures

V 30 – **What kind of judge was Jesus to be?** Just

Why? No ulterior motives

V 31 – **If one person testifies about himself, what do we suspect?** Slanting things in his favor
Read Deuteronomy 19:15

V 32 – A reference to _____? The Father
-Notice tense in v 32 (John the Baptist was a past event)

John 5.33-47

V 33 – Who else bore witness? John the Baptist - **Read John 1:15**

V 34 – **Meaning?** The Jews would only trust human reasoning – they could have been saved by listening to John the Baptist

V 35 – They must have accepted John the Baptist for a while, until he started pointing people to Jesus

V 36 – **The next witness?** The works (miracles)
-The Jews were without excuse – they could observe the miracles

V 37 – **Had God spoken about Jesus?** Yes, at his baptism and (in the future) on Mt. of Transfiguration

V 38 – They didn't have faith in them because they didn't believe in Jesus

V 39 – **What attitude did Jesus have toward the Scriptures?** Studied them down to the last letter

-**Their mistake?** Got the "letter" of the law, but missed Jesus

-See *Mark 7:9-13* – Corban (to avoid taking care of parents in old age)

-Bro. Woods: *Isaiah 53.1ff, Daniel 9:26-17, Deuteronomy 18:18, Genesis 3:15*

-Their prejudices blinded them to these scriptures

V 40 – Jews couldn't see Jesus in the scriptures

V 41-42 – **What is the key here?** Having our hearts right and open to the Scriptures

V 43 – **Description of the Jews?** Accepted false messiahs (prophesied to happen before fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.)

V 44 – They liked glory and honor from one another

V 45 – **Which of their heroes condemned them?** Moses

V 46 – **Read Gen. 1.26, Gen. 3.15, Gen. 49.9-11, Exod. 3.13-14, John 8.24, 28, Deut. 18.17-19**

V 47 – They had to believe in the writings of Moses
-**Did they believe Moses?** Not really

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