

John 5 Major Points

- v1-6
 - “a feast of the Jews.”
 - We don’t know which feast. There are possibly 5 feast it could have been
 - Passover (April) celebrated the Exodus 1400 years before
 - Chuck Smith says most believe this is the feast spoken of
 - Pentecost (June) 50 days after Passover, celebrated the giving of the Law
 - Ken Ortize say’s most believe this is the feast spoken of
 - This is not to be confused with “The Pentecost” spoken of in Acts where the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples.
 - Tabernacles (October) celebrated the ingathering of the harvest
 - Dedication (December) started by Judas Maccabaeus
 - Purim (shortly after Passover- Feb-March) and is not mentioned in the Gospels
 - See handout
 - Really not extremely important which feast.
 - From what I could tell the only major reason it’s important is to determine the length of Jesus’ ministry based on the number of Passovers that he went to.
 - The Sheep Gate (Bethesda)
 - Bethesda literally means “House of Mercy”
 - Sheep Gate
 - Believed to have been discovered near the Temple Mount area.
 - Portions of the double pools have been excavated
 - Verse 4 as discussed by Kylan is not in most Bibles
 - Even though it probably was not in the original autograph it is good that we have it now otherwise we would wonder why in the world these people are trying to jump in the pool.
 - All the sick and wounded and lame were there to be healed
 - This man had been invalid for 38 years and was at a major disadvantage based on others ability to make it into the pool
- v6-8
 - Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed
 - This is important. He had been lying around for years trying to be healed. Many invalids were there trying to be healed – somewhat pathetic situation
 - If he was healed he could lose a potentially lucrative situation in begging – source of income.
 - He hadn’t asked Jesus for help or to be healed – HE DIDN’T KNOW WHO JESUS WAS

- Someone was asking Bill Gates about his fortune and how incredible it was... and Bill responded... but the funny thing is if I were blind I would give it all to be able to see.
 - This man was in a totally hopeless situation
 - What we wouldn't give to be healed if that were us but we so often take it for granted!
 - He replies to Jesus telling him that he wants to be healed but he can't because he doesn't have anyone to help into the pool.
 - His faith was there but it was misguided – not on God but on the healing powers of the pool
 - Did he really want to be healed?
 - Why was he still hanging around if he could never get in?
 - Was he just begging and waiting for someone to help him into the pool? Was this his response to Jesus?
 - Look at the series of people we've come through. In each case, Jesus came to them and spoke to them in the way that they could understand and be reached.
 - Nicodemus
 - Needed a harsh and direct reproof to get the point across
 - Samaritan Woman
 - The water was a great example to this woman. She understood thirst and the need for water. She was most likely an outcast and had to travel out of her way to get to this well
 - Officials Son
 - His faith was already in Jesus. He just wanted him to come and heal his son. Therefore, Jesus just healed him without going. The man believed and went home!
 - Invalid at the Pool
 - Doesn't even know who Jesus is!
 - Jesus decided to heal him REGARDLESS of the fact that he did not believe in Jesus nor was he looking for him. (John 5:21)
 - What is the significance here?
 - Romans 9:15, 18; Isa 45:4, Isa 45:5
 - He chooses to bless or heal people regardless of their faith if it means fulfilling his purposes or to bring himself glory. It's his choice, his prerogative. We ask "Why him" but that is not for us to ask
- v9
 - The man is immediately healed. He knows he's healed. How?
 - Did he all of a sudden have feeling back in his legs? I think he did and it was a "FULL" healing
 - He didn't get feeling in his legs back and then require months of rehab to strengthen his leg muscles before he could walk again.

- He was FULLY healed – strong muscles and all. He got up immediately and WALKED away. Remember, he had been unable to walk for 38 YEARS! Atrophy had destroyed the muscles in his legs for sure!
- v10 - 13
 - The healing took place on the Sabbath
 - According to the Mosaic Law – the Torah – this was not forbidden. But according to the Mishnah and the Talmud it was forbidden
 - The Mishnah and Talmud were man’s interpretation of the law – law upon law upon law – Jesus knew better
 - Human definition of "work"
 - Our nature to define black and white so we don't have to think or seek the will of God, that takes concentration, introspect, etc...
 - So black and white makes it easier, but interferes with our communication with God and builds prejudice.
 - The Jews immediately recognized this man as “carrying his mat” on the Sabbath. They were like police officers setting a speed trap hiding behind the overpass – just waiting to snag someone doing “wrong”
 - ***This is probably the main purpose of this section. Jesus was setting himself up to be confronted by the Jews and to continue to move his plan along.***
 - Interesting response by the man once he is confronted by the Jews.
 - His response to them essentially says – but the man who healed me, he has more authority than you – he can heal – he told me to get up and walk. He healed me and so I listened to him!
 - But when asked who it was that told him, he couldn’t say because he didn’t KNOW!
 - Why did Jesus slip away in the crowd and not let the man know who he was?
 - Most likely he didn’t want to be noticed by all the other invalids and sick. He would have been completely overwhelmed by requests to be healed or by overzealous Jews who recognized that he had healed on the Sabbath.
- v14-15
 - “Jesus later found him at the temple”
 - Jesus is seeking him out – looking to continue talking to him
 - Jesus continues to seek us out also. Even in our weakness and our sin, he still seeks us
 - He picks up where he left off reminding him that he was healed
 - Jesus cuts right to the heart of the matter here. The issue of him being healed was not nearly as important as his eternal status
 - Once again someone is admonished to “quit sinning”.
 - Hebrews 12:1-3

- We need to have deeper vision, beyond this world of physical and see into the spiritual element of our lives. This is really our biggest, most difficult, and entire challenge on earth...
 - “See, I healed you! Now stop sinning or something worse than your physical issues will happen to you! “
 - Spiritual Death, separation from God – Hell – is much worse than your physical issues you might have here on Earth.
 - Now that he knows who Jesus is – he immediately goes to tell the Jews who it was that healed him.
 - This could be for a few reasons
 - He wanted to take the “blame” for carrying his mat off of himself and onto Jesus
 - He could very easily be looking to redeem himself in front of the Jews. He could be a “nark” looking to point the finger.
 - In my opinion this is not as likely. He was just healed by Jesus after 38 years of being invalid and many years of seeking to heal himself in the pool.
 - He wanted to bring glory to Jesus for doing what he did and for the edification of the other Jews
 - In my opinion this is the most likely case but there really is no way to know his motivation.
 - We have only conjecture to lead us but it makes sense that he would want to share with others. When we come to the Lord and are saved, we begin to realize what we have been given and have a desire to share that with others....not much different in this case – “Or so it seems to me”
- v16-17
 - Jews start to persecute Jesus because of his actions
 - “Jesus was doing these *things*”
 - Implies that he was doing more than just this single particular miracle
 - His reputation was starting to spread and preceded him
 - The Jewish leaders didn’t like it
 - **His response in v17 is important – HUGE.**
 - He is publically declaring that he and the father are equals
 - This is a huge statement and is considered heretical in the eyes of the Jews.
 - Hard to deny that Jesus taught he was God
 - Unlike Mormon or Jehovah’s Witness
 - Both Mormons and J.W. change the Bible to read how they want.

- Why is that?
 - He obviously doesn't need it – he already knows the truth – he IS the truth
 - Again in v 36-37 he is equating himself with God
 - Even the Father has testified on behalf of Jesus
 - What is this? What does this mean?
 - The path is paved and should be obvious who He is. There are so many prophecies being fulfilled, John the B., signs, etc.
 - How often are we being blind to what is actually obvious, but we just don't want to see it.
 - V 39 HUGE
 - Do we really believe what we read?
 - Are we just reading to read or are we seeking his truth and do we desire to know him more?
 - What is our motivation?
- v41-47
 - Again, he knows our heart
 - He comes in the name of the Father and yet he was not accepted
 - v43 - If someone else were to come in their own name – they would be (and have been accepted)
 - Joseph Smith
 - Muhammad
 - Etc
 - Think about all the people we follow who come in their own name – who make claims about themselves and who offer such great promises.
 - How often are we willing to take the praise of others but yet we don't seek the praise of the Lord?
 - Work? Friends? Politics etc
 - Jesus is not our accuser
 - John 3:16-17
 - It is the law from Moses that condemns us already – not Jesus
 - The scriptures (and Moses) wrote about him
 - 100's of prophecies
 - We are without excuse!!
 - Romans 1:20
 - They weren't looking for the answers. They were too concerned with their standing according to man. Where are we? Where are YOU?
 - Are we seeking the praise of the father or the praise of man?
 - Do we know Jesus and therefore the father or do we only pretend to in order to appear holy before man?

