

## Healing and Opposition – John 4:43–5:18



MEMORY VERSE: And this is why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” John 5:16-17

### DAY 1 JOHN 4:43-45 — The Plight of a Prophet

1. What was Jesus likely to face in Galilee? v.44
2. What happened to Jesus at another time in His home town? Mark 6:1-6
3. Why do you think people oppose or hesitate to embrace spiritual leaders they already know; or God with whom they have become too familiar?
4. Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus?
5. What might help us discern when to believe and when to be suspect of a person's credibility?

### LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus became more of a public figure when He healed on the Sabbath. Our Lord is true and good, but controversial. As you study this week, think about what He did because of His humanity, and how we must respond because of His deity. He was God in the flesh, and yet He faced terrible opposition.

### DAY 2 JOHN 4:13-15 — Living Water

6. What truths does Jesus say about mankind and about Himself? vv.13,14

7. What opposite stances did Jesus and the official initially seem to have in this exchange? vv.48,49  
What do you think was really going on in their hearts?
8. How did Jesus' response to him bring out true faith in the father? v.50
9. How did the circumstances of this healing impact the official and his household's faith? vv.51-53
10. Can you think of a time when God arranged circumstances to specifically impact your faith?

### **DAY 3** JOHN 5:1-9 — Jesus Heals an Invalid at the Pool of Bethesda

11. Why was Jesus in Jerusalem, and what does this tell you about Him? v.1

Exodus 23:14-17

12. What strikes you about the setting of the miracle Jesus was about to perform? vv.2-5  
(Note: v.4 is not found in the earliest manuscripts, so most Bible translations do not include it.)
13. Once again we see an interesting conversation between Jesus and a person in need. What did Jesus ask the invalid, and why do you think He asked that question? v.6

14. What might you infer from the invalid's response to Jesus' question? v.7

15. What strikes you about the way the invalid was healed and his response to his healing?

#### **DAY 4** JOHN 5:9-13 — Healing on the Sabbath

16. Of what did the Jews accuse the man who had been healed? vv.9,10

17. How did the healed man defend himself? What is your impression of his defense? vv.11-13

18. Do you think the Jew's rules about Sabbath lined up with God's intent for the Sabbath?

Genesis 2:2-3

Exodus 20:8-11

Exodus 23:12

19. Why was the healed man unable to identify Jesus? What do you think actually happened after Jesus healed him? v.13

20. What did Christ do and say that shows both His tender love and His firm Lordship? v.14
21. How did the healed man respond to his healing and Jesus' words? v.15
22. What did the Jews do when they heard that Jesus was the One who had healed him? v.16
23. Jesus was sinless, so what do you think He meant by His words in v.17? See also Mark 2:27
24. Why were the Jews then, not just persecuting, but seeking to kill Jesus? v.18
25. What possible reasons can you think of to explain why Jesus went to the pool at Bethesda?

## LOVE THE TRUTH

The God of the universe came to earth in the flesh and the worldly experts on religion hated Him. What do we do with this? We must recognize truth and wholeheartedly embrace it, while steeling ourselves to the fact that, if we follow Christ, it will likely not make sense to some other people.

## John 4:43–5:18

### Healing and Opposition

Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, and Cana, are both in the region of Galilee. When Jesus' public ministry began, it appears He operated out of Capernaum, also in Galilee, which is why each of these places are referred to as His "home." People liked it when they saw Jesus change water into wine in Cana, but they knew Him well enough that it was difficult for them to see Him as God. In this current passage, John records two miraculous healings. The first was more private, but the second was public and caught the attention of the religious leaders and led to their persecution of Christ.

Jesus deals with each of us according to our deepest needs, as He did with the official in Capernaum and the invalid at Bethesda. When the official asked Jesus to heal his son, Jesus replied, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." When He saw the invalid at the pool of Bethesda, a place people went to for healing, Jesus asked, "Do you want to be healed?" What did the official really need? His desire was for his son to be healed, but his deepest need was for a loving and powerful Savior who was not limited by time and space. God gave him both. What did the invalid most need? His desire was to get into the supposed healing waters of the pool, but his deepest need was for true spiritual healing, which only Christ can give.

Three times a year Jewish males were required to offer sacrifices to the Lord "at the place the the Lord will choose, to make His name dwell there." This location was in Jerusalem during Christ's time because God's dwelling place was the temple. The first feast was Passover, celebrated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. It commemorated the hasty departure from slavery in Egypt. The second was the Feast of Weeks, which reminded them that they were once slaves and were now free to offer gifts to God as they had been blessed by Him. After Christ, it became known as Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given.

The third feast was the Ingathering or Tabernacles, which reminded them of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 16:1-17) All the feasts point to Jesus Christ and He was faithful to honor those feasts, even as He is the fulfillment of them.

The pool of Bethesda is in the wall of Jerusalem, at the sheep gate, not a very glamorous place. The pool drew the downtrodden, the lame, the losers, so to speak. Yet the Lamb of God came to this place and healed one who could not help himself. The religious leaders did not recognize the Lamb of God, and set out to kill Him.

### WALK IN TRUTH



We all face trials, sickness, pain and confusion in our lives. Our initial desire is often to escape from our trials. We naturally want God to solve our problems, to alleviate our pain, and heal our sickness. He is indeed the solution to all our problems and the healer of our souls and bodies, but His ways sometimes don't make sense to us because our focus is more on our desire than His will, on our own expectations rather than His wisdom. When we face a crisis, we would do well to ask Him what our actual deepest need is and ask Him to accomplish His will in our lives through the crisis. We must trust Him to do what is best for us, even as we lift our hearts in prayer asking specifically for what we think we need. It is true that Jesus came that we might have abundant life; and we often don't receive something because we fail to ask God; but even Jesus had to yield to God as He asked to avoid the cross, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (John 10:10; James 4:2; Luke 22:42)

## Notes