

John 5:1-18
"Power of Jesus" Part 4

When one reads this story, one can't help but ask the question, "Why this man?". There were many gathered in this place according to John. V3, "In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed." Why did Jesus approach this man and only this man? There were many there in need of healing but only this man received it. Was it God's will that the others gathered there remain infirmed? Certainly, Jesus was able so why not heal everyone? If God did it for that man, doesn't seem fair that he would not do so for all who were gathered there? Better yet, why won't he do it for me or for my loved-one? There's the question we have either asked or heard someone ask. See, we want a fair God, as we understand fairness. We want a God that treats everyone the same. But God doesn't. So, back to the question, "Why not heal everyone?". The answer is simple. God does what God wants, when God wants, how God wants, and with who God wants all for his glory and the fulfilment of His divine will. This is why.

Psalm 115:3 "But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."

Psalm 135:6 "Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places."

It was God's divine will that Jesus die on a cross for the sin of the world and this miracle would help that along. This is why Jesus healed this man. **V18** ¹⁸ "Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God." So,

with this out of the way, I want to share three things regarding the power of Jesus from this miracle story.

First, as it concerns the power of Jesus time is no obstacle. V5-9, “⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷ The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.” Church, thirty-eight years this man suffered from a debilitating illness. No wonder he is despondent. Considering his answer to Jesus’ question, I can’t help but wonder why he remained there? Maybe, just maybe, he held on to the belief that one day someone would come to his aid. It is here this man teaches us to never lose hope does not matter how long one has endured suffering. I can imagine that he thought Jesus would be the one who would finally place him in the water at the right time. But Jesus did not need the water. Church, never pigeonhole God! Always be open to all possibilities. God may bring the needed change/healing in a miraculous way, or an irrational way and at other times a conventional way. Nonetheless, never lose hope because time is no obstacle for Jesus.

Luke 8:43-44 “⁴³ A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. ⁴⁴ Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped.”

2 Kings 5:1-14 “¹Now Naaman, the commander of the king of Syria’s army, was esteemed and respected by his master for through him the Lord had given Syria military victories. But this great warrior had a skin disease. ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood in the doorway of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰Elisha sent out a messenger who told him, “Go and wash seven times in the Jordan; your skin will be restored and you will be healed.” ¹¹Naaman went away angry. He said, “Look, I thought for sure he would come out, stand there, invoke the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the area, and cure the skin disease. ^{12b} So he turned around and went away angry. ¹³His servants approached and said to him, “O master, if the prophet had told you to do some difficult task, you would have been willing to do it. It seems you should be happy that he simply said, ‘Wash and you will be healed.’ ¹⁴So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, as the prophet had instructed. His skin became as smooth as a young child’s and he was healed.”

Isaiah 38:1-5, 21 “About that time Hezekiah became deathly ill, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him. He gave the king this message: “This is what the Lord says: ‘Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die. You will not recover from this illness.’” ²When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, ³“Remember, O Lord, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you.” Then he broke down and wept bitterly. ⁴Then this message came to Isaiah from the Lord: ⁵“Go back to Hezekiah and tell him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your

prayer and seen your tears. I will add fifteen years to your life....

²¹ Isaiah had said to Hezekiah's servants, "Make an ointment from figs and spread it over the boil, and Hezekiah will recover."

Second, Jesus' power is not subject to our rules and demands.

V9b-13 "And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." ¹¹ He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' " ¹² Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place." **In**

healing this man, Jesus disregards the rules and demands of the religious establishment. It was the Sabbath and the rule makers

and keepers had determined no work, as defined by them, was to be done on the Sabbath. Make note, healing would have been permissible on the Sabbath because it constituted doing good. See, rule makers and keepers rarely have the best interest of the people or God in mind. It is all about preserving status quo and propping up the establishment and Jesus had no time for that and neither should we. God's/Jesus' power is subject to no one. Our rules and demands mean nothing to God! And thank God this is so.

John 16:14-15 "¹⁴ When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" ¹⁵ When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself."

Matt 12:1-8 "At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. ² But

some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, “Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.” ³Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. ⁵And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath? ⁶I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple! ⁷But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ ⁸For the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!”

Matt 27:39-43 ³⁹The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. ⁴⁰“Look at you now!” they yelled at him. “You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!” ⁴¹The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. ⁴²“He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! ⁴³He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Finally, Jesus’ power empowers us. V14-15 ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” ¹⁵The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.” **What does Jesus mean by these words? “Sin no**

more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” Many theologians see these words from Jesus as a warning to this man not to return to the sinful habits that brought about his condition. Others, understand these words of Jesus to be a warning against something this man may have been contemplating given his new lease on life that would have grave consequences. Both are plausible, for sin can lead to physical ailments and worse, eternal death. However, I believe these words of Jesus mark the moment of this man’s conversion. In this encounter with Jesus in the temple this man comes to full knowledge of who healed him and who Jesus is. And the only reasonable response to this information is faith marked by a life no longer dominated by sin. I am convinced he returned to those who inquired in a show of faith not to turn Jesus in. Jesus’ power empowers us.

John 8:10-11 “Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

2 Cor 5:17 “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**