

# “The Son of God at Work”

John 5:1-18

The Son of God is about His Father’s Work:

## 1. A Glorious Work!

vv. 1-14

### (1) A Scene of Sickness – a concentration of sin’s effects (1-5)

- During a feast of the Jews in Jerusalem, at a pool near the Sheep Gate, on the Sabbath(!)

- A multitude of invalids – blind, lame, and paralyzed

- cf. variant manuscript reading here at end of v.3
- some superstition apparently associated with the pool and its supposed healing benefits

- A particularly pitiful case: “one man...an invalid for thirty-eight years”

### (2) A Most Revealing Question! (6-7) “When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be healed?’”

- Kindness and Compassion
- Unassuming Omnipotence!

Behind the question: unlimited divine power!

In his response, the invalid only thinks in terms of the limited human possibilities

### (3) A Manifestation of Jesus’ Glory (8-9a) “Jesus said to him, ‘Get up, take up your bed, and walk.’ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.”

- Immediate and complete healing
- Significance:

*He who can totally conquer sin’s effects is the One who conquers sin at its root!*

### (4) A “Push-back” of Unbelief (9b-13) “Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, ‘It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.’”

- Sabbath restrictions cited!
  - blindness of unbelief
  - gross distortion of God’s Law

- The man, fearful(?), puts it off on the one who healed him

### (5) A Warning (14) “Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘See, you are well!’”

- Not saying the man’s paralysis had been caused by his sin. *Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.’”*

- But the goodness of God should lead him to repentance!

- If he does not repent, a *worse thing* will happen to him!

## 2. A Glorious Apologetic!

vv. 15-18

### (1) The Opposition of the Jews “And this is why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.”

### (2) Our Lord’s Stunning Declaration

-1- His Explanation: a “shot over the bow” (17) “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I am working.’”

\* The Father has been working since the beginning!

- Carrying out the *greatest* work: the work of redemption!

- The Sabbath did not mean a cessation from this work!
- The Sabbath, a most perfect day for such “work”!

\* The Son is about the *same* work!

- He is at the very center of that work!

-2- Its Significance (18) “This is why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

- He was breaking the Sabbath (in their view) – and they were wrong!

- He was claiming *equality with God* – and they were right!