

The Lord Is Working

John 5:1-18 (Page 74-75 in the BPB)

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Don White

³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

The Setting

¹After these things (4:46-54)

there was a feast of the Jews,

(Other feasts mentioned in John: **Passover Feast** - 2:13; 6:4; 11:55; **Feast of Booths** - 7:2; **Feast of Dedication** – 10:22. This is the only undesignated feast in John's Gospel)

and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

²Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep *gate* (mentioned in Neh. 3:1, 32; 12:39)

a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, (house of mercy)

having five porticoes.

(portoco – “a structure consisting of a roof supported by columns at regular intervals, typically attached as a porch to a building.”)

³In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered,

[waiting for the moving of the waters; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water;

whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.]

⁵A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

⁶When Jesus saw him lying *there*,

and knew that he had already been a long time *in that condition*,

He said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”

⁷The 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.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.”

⁹Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk.

Isaiah 35:3-6

The Conflict: Healing on the Sabbath

Now it was the Sabbath on that day.

¹⁰So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”

Ex. 20:4-11

¹¹But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk.’”

¹²They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up *your pallet* and walk’?”

¹³But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in *that* place.

¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him,
“Behold, you have become well;
do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”

1Cor. 11:28-32; Acts 5:1-11

John 9:1-3; Job

¹⁵The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

Additional Sabbath Activities

Mark 1:21-28; 2:23-28; 3:1-6; Luke 13:10-17; 14:1-6; Matt. 12:1-14

Jesus’ Prerogative to Heal on the Sabbath

¹⁷But He answered them,

“My Father is working until now, (2Cor. 5:17-20)

and I Myself am working.”

John 7:21-24; 9:16

Jesus' Claim of Equality with God

¹⁸For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:13-23; Hebrews 1:1-4

Application:

The Lord is still working.

Building His Church -Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20

Interceding - Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34

The Holy Spirit's Intercession - Romans 8:26-27

For we are God's fellow workers... (1Cor. 3:9)

God works on behalf of those who wait for Him (Isaiah 64:6)