

“Pick Up Your Mat” - John 5:5-16

Ask - “Have you ever slept or laid on a mat? When?”

Background - Jesus attended several of the major Jewish feasts during his earthly ministry. For this reason, He was regularly in and around Jerusalem. His presence there greatly irritated and angered the devout, orthodox Jews.

“Jesus Heals a Lame Man” - John 5:5-9a

(v5-6) Read verses 1-4. Who did Jesus encounter at the pool of Bethesda, how long had he been there, and what did Jesus say to him? Why would Jesus ask a question with such an obvious answer?

(v7) What reason did the lame man give for not yet being healed? Where do people turn for healing today? Discuss.

(v8-9a) What did Jesus say and do? Was the man healed and how quickly did it happen? Is there any indication that he ever got dipped into the pool?

JESUS MET A LAME MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA WHO HAD BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME IN ORDER TO BE HEALED BY ITS MEDICINAL WATERS. INSTEAD, JESUS HEALED THE MAN INSTANTLY.

“The Jews Confront the Healed Man” - John 5:9b-13

(v9b-10) What day of the week was it? Why were the Jews upset with the man who’d been healed? What was he doing “wrong”?

(v11) For what reason was the man carrying his pallet? Do you think this man was trying to get out of trouble by blaming Jesus? Explain.

(v12-13) What did the Jews want to know from the man? Did he know the answer? Where had Jesus gone? What does this say about Jesus’ desire for fame and acclamation?

THE HEALED MAN CARRIED HIS PALLET ON THE SABBATH DAY. THE JEWS WERE UPSET AND QUESTIONED HIM. THE FORMERLY LAME MAN DID NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO HAD HEALED HIM.

“Jesus Meets the Man a Second Time” - John 5:14-16

(v14) Where did Jesus find the man again? Is the location significant? Why? What did Jesus warn him not to do and why?

(v15) Having learned Jesus' name, what did the healed man do? Why do you suppose he did that?

(v16) Why then were the Jews upset with Jesus? How were they persecuting Him at this point? Why was their anger unfounded?

JESUS MET A SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH THE MAN A SECOND TIME IN THE TEMPLE. HE WENT AND TOLD THE JEWS WHO HAD HEALED HIM. THEY WERE ANGRY AT JESUS FOR HEALING ON THE SABBATH.

Application - The lame man longed to be healed, and hoped that the waters of Bethesda would make him walk again. Jesus intervened and miraculously healed the man. It is not wrong for us to seek traditional means of healing, but let us not forget that Jesus has the ability to heal us. For this reason, we should pray for healing and give all praise and glory to God when it comes - through whichever means. How have you seen or experienced the Lord's healing?