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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11

Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- **Read John 5:1-18.**

In v. 1-9, a miracle is performed. In v. 6, Jesus—the smartest person who ever walked the face of the earth (see Colossians 2:3)!—appears to ask a very stupid question! What is he getting at?

In v. 14, Jesus said something strange to the man he healed. What did he know about this man?

In v. 10-18, Jesus is persecuted for doing good! We've come to expect the Jewish leaders to resent and resist Jesus, but in v. 12-13 & 15, **the healed man** went and tattled on him! What do you think is going on here?

- Every other major religion tells us that God saves the worthy, but Jesus said: *"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners,"* (Mark 2:17). **Why** do you think so many people say, *"All religions are basically the same"*? Does **this** seem like a **major difference** to you? Why or why not?

- The Bible teaches that nobody seeks the One **True** God, as he **really** is. (Instead, we seek "gods of our own making"—who give us whatever **we** want, who **only** love and **never** punish "good people".) What are some misconceptions **you** once held of God, but since have abandoned?

What aspects of the biblical view of God do you **still** not like? What should you do about that?

- A test of whether we desire God Himself—or merely use Him as a means to what we really want—is this: How do we respond to God when he refuses us what we dearly, desperately want? Tell about something you really wanted, but God said "no". How did you respond to God over that?

- Read Romans 4:4-5. According to v. 4, what do those who work for their salvation receive? What "wages" do sinners deserve and get (see Romans 6:23a)? What do those receive who **do not** work for their salvation, but instead believe on Christ for it (v. 5)?

- "There is Sabbath rest for the people of God...come to me, and I will give you rest." (Hebrews 4:9) Are you **completely** at rest in Christ? **Why or why not?** (Matthew 11:28)

If not, what must you do?  
What guidance do we get from John 6:27-29?

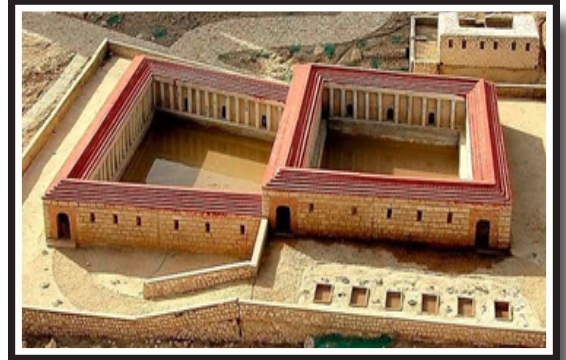


# Sermon Summary

*Key Text: John 5:1-18*

We are in a sermon series drawn from the gospel of John, examining some of Jesus' recorded miracles which point to something that God would have us know about him. One challenge in getting to know Jesus is the fact that he is a perfect human being, which is difficult for us to accurately imagine. In the New Testament we are able to observe a perfect human being in Jesus, and as we do we are constantly surprised and forced to conclude that we could never imagine someone like him. Today we will be looking at the third miraculous sign that John records about Jesus involving the healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda. We will examine this account in three steps: first, we will look at the pool, then the lame man, and finally, we will talk about the controversy over the Sabbath that comes afterward.

**The Pool** The construction of the pool was a source of controversy at one time, and was used as an argument for why the Bible was unreliable until an excavation in the 1890s uncovered the location and Biblically accurate design of the pool. What once was used as evidence against the historical reliability of the Bible is now used as evidence in support of it. This proof highlights a question about why trusting the New Testament documents is important and reliable. Every other major religion tells us that God saves the worthy, but the New Testament tells us that our salvation cannot be earned, that we are saved by God's grace apart from works. Therefore, it matters whether the New Testament records are reliable because it is asking us to entrust our eternal destiny to its historical accuracy.



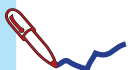
**The Lame Man** Jesus takes the initiative and goes to the lame man, which illustrates an important Biblical principle: If you find God, it's because God pursued you (Romans 3:10-12). The lame man sees Jesus as a partner in his healing, not as the ultimate source of his healing. Likewise, we tend to use God as a means to an end, not as our source of salvation and joy. There is no indication that the lame man responds in faith to Jesus, but is simply satisfied with his physical healing only. He received from Jesus all that he wanted from him.

**The Sabbath Controversy** In healing on the Sabbath, Jesus was pointing to his true identity as God. The physical healing Jesus offered the lame man was a sign pointing to the spiritual healing he came to offer humanity. The Sabbath was in place to point to the culmination of Jesus' work on the cross—his perfect life which qualified him to die as our sin substitute and afforded us a rest from our futile labors of trying to please God. He is our salvation rest.

## Talking To God About This Week's Message

*"Heavenly Father, please help me today to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."*

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



## Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to explore our Sabbath rest in Christ...**

**Monday**—Read Exodus 31:15-17. For **whom** was the Sabbath? What was the penalty for Sabbath-breaking?

**Tuesday**— Read Matthew 5:17. **When**, and **by whom**, was the Law (including Sabbath) fulfilled?

**Wednesday**— Read Romans 14:5. What is the **New Testamental** view regarding "holy days"?

**Thursday**— Read Hebrews 3:18–4:11. What warnings do **we** receive about "entering into rest"?

**Friday**— Read Psalm 116:1-8. Rephrase this passage in its **Christologic fullness**.

**Saturday**—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study John 6:1-14, 27-35.



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]



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- *"Why do so many of us struggle with addictive habits?"*
- *"Are freedom and change possible—for me or my friends?"*
- *"What is the biblical method for breaking addiction's grip?"*

**Biblical Hope and Help  
for Addictive Habits and Eating Disorders**

- **Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 9am — noon**
- **Triangle Community Church [ 4216 Kildaire Farm Road, Apex ]**
- **Facilitators: Dave and Krista Dunham**
- **For adults and high school students**
- **Tickets just \$15**
- **Free childcare available**



This interactive workshop will provide you with rich biblical perspectives on addictions, with additional focus on eating disorders, and will equip you with practical strategies for combatting these common struggles.