



## **The Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic**

### **John 5:1-18**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> sign in John's Gospel and exemplifies the Divine Power to restore a person to wholeness.
- 5:1- Feast of the Jews:
  - The Fathers teach that this feast is the OT Pentecost (a.k.a "feast of the weeks"), which celebrates the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai.
  - Comes 50 days after Passover and celebrates the first fruits of harvest.
- 5:2- The pool:
  - Was discovered about 100 yards north of the temple area. The water for this high-ground pool came from underground springs and was used to wash down the sacrificial lambs before they were slain.
  - Pool functions and symbolizes baptism because indirectly relates the healing of the 1<sup>st</sup> person going in to the washing of the sacrifices and the movement of the water which is the passion of Christ.
  - Baptism of the New Covenant is direct participation in the sacrificial death of Christ without the mediation of angels.
  - Resembles the Jewish people
- 5:2- the 5 porches:
  - Protected on all sides by the guardianship of the law, written in the 5 books of Moses, so they would not sin.
  - The letter of the law taught the ignorant what was to be done but it did not heal their infirmities.
    - Who are the blinds? lack perfect light of faith.
    - Who are the lame? Do not do the good things that they know they were to do.
  - Recognition of sin happens through the law, but the grace of forgiveness and healing comes only through Jesus Christ.
- 5:4- The angel:
  - designates the one who descended invisibly into the pool and moved the water to provide the power of healing.
  - Clothed in flesh, Christ descended into the water as the angel of great counsel.
- 5:4- The movement of the water= the Lord's Passion
  - Because through His Passion those who believed were redeemed from the curse of the law/judgment. Once you eat from this tree, you shall die by death.
- 5:4- The one who first went down after the movement of the water was healed from whatever illness he had.

- Why one?? One Lord, One faith, One Baptism {Eph 4:5}
- 5:5- according to St. John Chrysostom: Jesus singled out the man who had waited 38 years in order to teach us to have perseverance and as a judgment against those who lose hope or patience in much lesser troubles lasting a far shorter time.
  - 38= 40-2
    - Perfect sum total of virtues- produced by 10\*4, or fulfilling through the four books of the Holy Gospel- suggests that people who are wasting away from a long illness caused by being without love to God and neighbor, have two less than the perfect total of virtues.
    - They can now **rise** from their illness through the gift of the Holy Spirit and when they have shaken off their sluggishness, they should hasten with the burden of brotherly love to the vision of their Maker.
- 5:6,7- The Lord's question is relevant for many reasons:
  1. Made public the fact that the sick man kept his faith even in a situation that was seemingly hopeless, for how could a paralytic ever be the first into the water?
  2. The Lord draw attention away from the water & toward the need for a **man** to help us= fulfilled in **Christ** Himself who became man to heal all of us.
  3. Not everyone who is ill actually and truly desires to be healed.
    - Take up your bed: lovingly carry your neighbor patiently.
    - Walk= love God with your whole heart, soul and strength (Mk 12:30)
- 5:10-12..Jews observed the law in a fleshly way....which ordered the people to keep from all servile work on the seventh day (Ex:20:10, 31:15) but the meaning of the spiritual Sabbath, we should remain on holiday from sin.
  - Sins are understood as servile works. We are ordered to walk free from them.
- 5:14- Jesus Christ found the paralytic man in the temple after he was healed.
  - He had great faith and went to thank God rather than going anywhere else.
  - **Sin no more:** There is a general connection between sin and suffering (Rom 6:23), this connection is not always one-to-one, for the innocent often suffer, and the guilty are often experience earthly sufferings as well.
    - Nevertheless, sometimes our sin lead directly to our own suffering in this world.
    - St. John Chrysostom: this was the case with this paralytic. Christ's warning here however, is that the sins that destroy the soul lead to a far **worse** result than an affliction of the body.
    - The only hope is to flee from sin all together.
- Paralytic man- confesses Jesus Christ to the Jews.
- 5:17-18: The Son's equality with God.