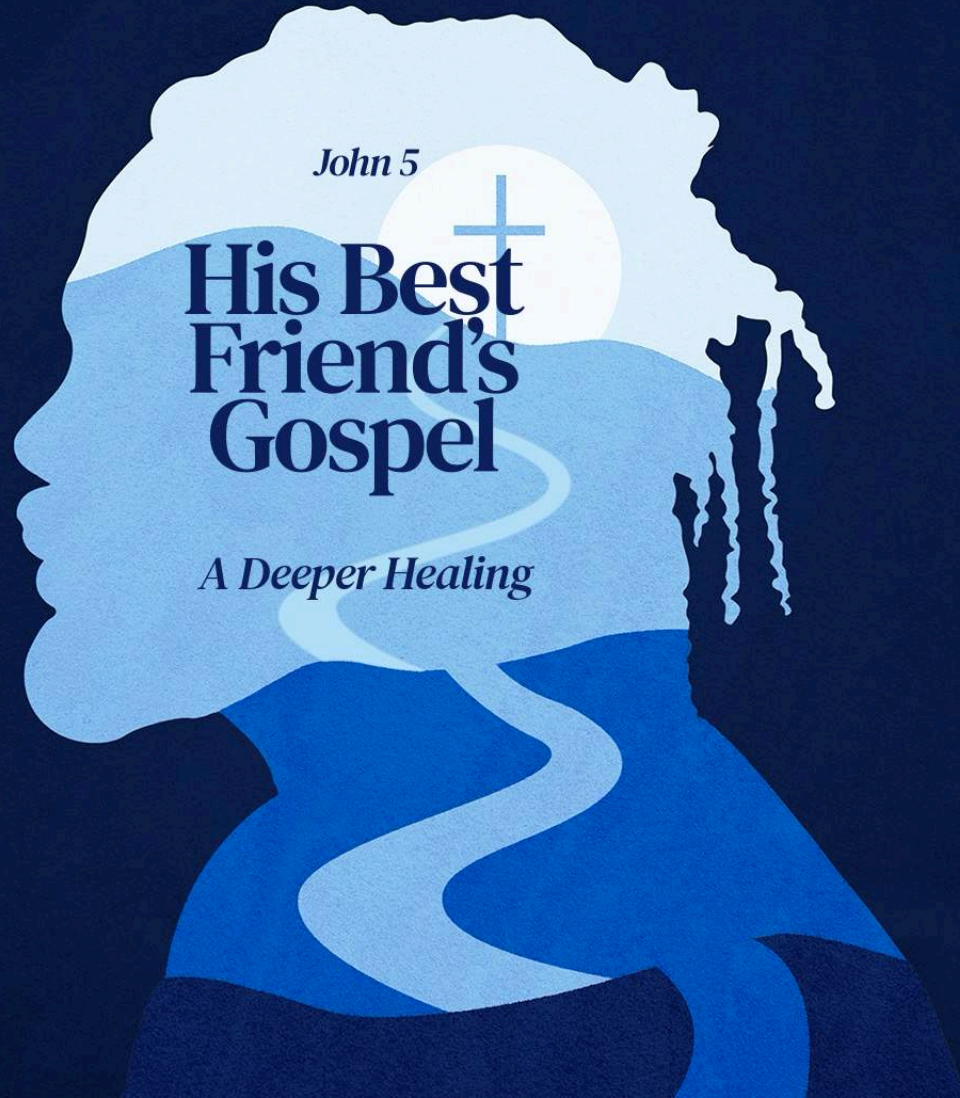


John 5

His Best Friend's Gospel

A Deeper Healing









5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

John 5:1–17

ESV



⁶When 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?” ⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”



⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’ ” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?”



¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.



¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” ¹⁸ This was 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.



Jesus' Mercy

- Jewish tradition (or superstition) was that when an Angel stirred up the waters at Bethesda, the first person to get in the pool would be healed.
- This man was crippled for 28 years, and others always beat him to it.
- His response shows he had not lost faith in God's ability to heal — he was still at the pool — but had resigned himself to the fact it was not for him. He had given up what little hope he had.
- Jesus sees this and has mercy on him, offering him healing even though he knew there would be consequences for the action.



Jesus' Miracle

- Singles out this one man, in need of a miracle, and is moved by compassion to act.
- Offers not only an encouragement to get up, but a command. “get up” and “walk” are active, ongoing commands — “be getting up” and “be walking”.
- Drags him to his feet with his words.
- Removes all doubt that he is able to do this, and has authority to do this.
- Speaks to the man as one with power and authority, and the results are immediate, and specific.



Jesus' Message

- Heals on the sabbath, and in a way that forces a confrontation. “Pick up your mat” guarantees the man will come into conflict with the religious leaders, who would deem this work.
- Does this to force the man, and those who witnessed, to have an opportunity to see him for who he is.
- “Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” Highlights our greatest need for healing from the problem of sin.
- “My father is working.... and *I am* working”. Uses the divine name of God for himself, and Causes the man to realize that the reason Jesus has the authority to heal is because he is “equal to the father”.
- If a man got up and walked, but his heart was not changed, then he was not truly healed at all.



When Healing Doesn't Come

- Is it always God's will to heal? Some say yes, but this passage (and others) force us to confront reality.
- How many people did Jesus walk past that day and not heal? How many times had he walked past that man when he entered the city and not healed him?
- Healing was a part of his ministry, but Jesus knew, that the state of people's hearts was far more important than the state of their bodies.
- He only did what he saw the father doing, and so knew that, this on day, by healing one, he could reveal the truth to the hearts of many.
- **We know God can heal — we should pray for and desire healing — but even if physical healing doesn't come, all of us can help minister the even deeper healing — the good news of the Gospel.**



