

Lesson 6 – Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Overview of the Lesson

- Last week Jesus was traveling to Galilee from Samaria, and now Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.
- This encounter with Jesus was the first public miracle, which also kicked off the beginning of Jesus' official persecution
- This encounter occurs at the healing pool of Bethesda. In Hebrew, Bethesda means house of grace or house of mercy.

Official Persecution

- Denying God's grace to keep the rules, under the guise of spiritual acceptance.
- The Sabbath had shifted from worship over work, that God is the ultimate source for sustenance, to focusing on following the law.
- MY Father rather than our Father.

Jesus is equal to God - Jesus claims his authority.

- Matthew 28:18 "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

"Do you want to get well?"

- Why would Jesus ask him such a seemingly obvious question?
- Sometimes the problem is that God has provided the opportunity we need, but we aren't fully aware of it or sure about taking advantage of it.

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses

- Rather than answering Jesus' question, the man gives excuses.
- His will is paralyzed just as his body is.

- He gives the sense of depending on others (MAN) rather than on God. He lacks hope.

“People who lack hope don’t need more knowledge, they need compassion. Jesus gave the man what he lacked and so desperately needed. He gave him grace in the form of a command: “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” – Charles Swindoll

Authority and Grace

- It was not through Jesus’ word of healing but through a command of authority that the man would reveal his own faith.
- Jesus demonstrates *His authority* once again for the man by telling him, “see, you are well again.”
- “stop sinning or something worse will happen to you.” *Jesus shows the man grace* by speaking truth and love.