

John 5: 1-15

John 5:1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 5:3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie-- the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 5:5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" 5:7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." 5:8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 5:9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 5:10 and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." 5:11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" 5:12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" 5:13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. 5:14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." 5:15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

1. In verse 7, why were the people waiting for the water to stir? What might this indicate about the way some people form their beliefs? Do you think superstition is a common belief system for people today?
2. In verse 6, what was Jesus really asking the disabled man?
3. In verse 7, what is the only thing the man is doing by the pool? What does this tell us about him?
4. In verse 7, the greek word for "Sir" is no more than a civil response. What might this indicate about the attitude or mood of this man?
5. In verse 7, how do you think the disabled man understood Jesus' question? What might have the man wanted Jesus to do?
6. What was the main issue of tension between Jesus and the Jewish authorities?
7. What does this tension issue teach us about Jesus?
8. What does this tension issue teach us about the Jewish authorities?

Mark 7:5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Mark 7:7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" Mark 7:8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." Mark 7:9 And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

9. What does this teach us about the way people's beliefs are formed?
10. In verse 10-12, what is the primary focus of the religious leaders? (Multiple choice)
 - a. Celebration and thanksgiving for this man's wonderful healing.
 - b. Concern about the formal breach of their code.
 - c. Other
11. What was one of the main reasons the Jewish authorities became so angry at Jesus?
12. What does verse 14 teach about suffering? (See 9:2-3)

John 5:16-30

Joh 5:16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. Joh 5:17 Jesus said to them, **"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."** Joh 5:18 **For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** Joh 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. Joh 5:20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. Joh 5:21 **For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.** Joh 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, Joh 5:23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.** Joh 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; **he has crossed over from death to life.** Joh 5:25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when **the dead will hear** the voice of the Son of God and **those who hear will live.** Joh 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have **life in himself.** Joh 5:27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Joh 5:28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice Joh 5:29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. Joh 5:30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and **my judgment is just**, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

1. What was Jesus' purpose in making the statement in verse 17?
2. What does verse 17 teach us about God's dealings with man?
3. What are the two reasons in verse 18 that the Jews were trying to kill Jesus?
4. In verse 21, what is Jesus claiming?
5. What does verse 23 teach us about man's relationship with God?
6. In verse 24, what does it mean to "*cross over from death to life*" and to whom does this happen?
7. In verse 25, who are "*the dead*" how will they "*hear*" and what does it mean that they will "*live*"?
8. In verse 26, What does it mean that Jesus has "*life in himself*"?
9. What is verse 28 and 29 referring to?
10. In verse 30, what does it mean that Jesus' judgment is "*just*"?