

## *“Waiting for the Waters to Stir; a Morning Encounter with John 5”*

### **Special Edition**

John 5

Rev. Ted Wood

Friday, June 14, 2019

1. Introduction
  
2. The Visible and Obvious
  - a. “... a pool ... called Bethesda ... lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.” 5:2, 3
    - i. “Behold ... will come and save you ... Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.” Isaiah 35:4-6
    - ii. “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.” Luke 7:22
  - b. “One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.” 5:5
    - i. The impact of long suffering or infirmity twists your soul.
  - c. “(Jesus) said to him, ‘Do you want to be healed?’” 5:6
    - i. Asked of the mother of the sons of Zebedee: “What do you want?” Matt 20:21
    - ii. Asked of two blind men: “What do you want me to do for you?” Matt 20:32
    - iii. Asked of the James and John: “What do you want me to do for you? Mk 10:36
    - iv. What is on your mind? What is your intention?
  - d. “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.” 5:7
    - i. The man’s response speaks volumes about what’s on his mind; what his intentions are: my greatest need is to have someone get me down the steps.
    - ii. The man did not answer Jesus’ question. He was on a completely different page. The man is in a desperate condition, but his desperation has not led him to the truth.

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- iii. His sights were set very low: he was looking for help from an angel when the Son of God was standing right beside him, speaking to him.
  - iv. The man understands one thing correctly: his total inability.
  - e. “Jesus said to him, ‘Get up, take up your bed, and walk.’ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.” 5:8,9
    - i. “I can’t, but God can!” ... but there are problems with this healing
    - ii. “... your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”
      - 1. This healing does not mention the man’s faith.
      - 2. We don’t know if he ever came to faith
      - 3. We do know one thing: the man testified to Jesus’ miracles:
        - a. “The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.” 5:15
        - b. “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19:40
3. The Invisible: “We believe in all things, Visible and Invisible”
- a. More about the Healer rather than the healing
  - b. The Son of God and the Followers of God have targets on their backs
    - i. Jesus, the iconoclast: “This was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.” 5:15
  - c. “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.” Jn 15:18
  - d. And it gets worse: “Haters of God” Romans 1:30
    - i. “... 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.” 5:18
    - ii. “My Father is working until now, and I am working ... the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.” 5:17, 19
    - iii. The same dynamic works in the Christian’s life: “... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13