

Gospel of John 5:1 – 18

New American Standard Version

1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went
 2 up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep *gate* a
 3 pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five
 4 porticoes. In these lay a multitude of those who were sick,
 5 blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the
 6 waters; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons
 7 into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after
 8 the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from
 9 whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] A man was
 10 there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw
 11 him lying *there*, and knew that he had already been a long time
 12 *in that condition*, He *said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”
 13 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into
 14 the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming,
 15 another steps down before me.” Jesus *said to him, “Get up,
 16 pick up your pallet and walk.” Immediately the man became
 17 well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk. Now it was
 18 the Sabbath on that day. So the Jews were saying to the man
 19 who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for
 20 you to carry your pallet.” But he answered them, “He who
 21 made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet
 22 and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you,
 23 ‘Pick up *your pallet* and walk?’” But the man who was healed
 24 did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while
 25 there was a crowd in *that place*. Afterward Jesus *found him in
 26 the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do
 27 not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The
 28 man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had
 29 made him well. For this reason the Jews were persecuting
 30 Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But
 31 He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I
 32 Myself am working.” For this reason therefore the Jews were
 33 seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was
 34 breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father,
 35 making Himself equal with God.

Observation – What does it say?

Interpretation – What does it mean?

Application – What does it mean for me?

Mark the interactions between different people:

Jesus and the sick man

The man and the Jews

The Jews and Jesus

What word(s) would you use to describe each relationship?

Jesus with man: _____

Man with Jesus: _____

Man with Jews: _____

Jews with man: _____

Jews with Jesus: _____

Jesus with Jews: _____

What did Jesus’ last statement to the healed man (1.26-27) mean to him? To us? Was Jesus speaking in general or about a specific sin of the man?

Why did Jesus answer the Sabbath-breaking accusations with His statement in l. 31-32? What do you learn about Jesus, His mission, His relationship with His Father?

Consider the Jews’ perspective. How is violating the Father’s Law working for the Father?

What else has Jesus said in recent passages about working for His Father? How might that relate to this incident?

Questions for further thinking:

- *How did the Jews connect Jesus' reference to "My Father" with God? Why did they not think He was talking about Joseph?*
- *What is your feeling about the sick man at the center of the story? Sympathy for his suffering? Disappointment in his response? Disgust that he identified Jesus to the Jews?*

How old were you thirty-eight years ago (or if you are younger, since birth)? Think of what your life would have been like since then in the man's condition. What effect would that have on perspective, values, priorities, loyalties, relationships? How might that affect your understanding of the man's actions in this passage? Does that shed any light on Jesus' words about the man's sin (l.26-27)?

What circumstances have you been (or are you now) in that might undermine you hope or your ability to see past all the limiting factors?

Interactions in John 5:1 – 18

Who said what to whom?

	to Jesus	to Sick Man	to Jews
From Jesus		<p>When Jesus saw him lying <i>there</i>, and knew that he had already been a long time <i>in that condition</i>, He *said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”</p> <p>Jesus *said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.”</p> <p>Afterward Jesus *found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”</p>	<p>But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”</p>
From Sick Man	<p>The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”</p>		<p>But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk.’”</p> <p>The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.</p>
From Jews	<p>For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.</p> <p>For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him</p>	<p>So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”</p> <p>They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk?’”</p>	

- *Looking at this “regrouping” of the various interactions between actors in the passage, what observations do you make? What (if anything) new do you see about the people involved or how they related to others?*