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### *The Gospel of John – Chapter 5 “Judging Jesus”*

From last week: *“Come, See!”*

John 4:**28**Then, *leaving her water jar*, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29**“*Come, see* a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” **30**They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

(Many Samaritans were saved that day!)

**Let’s fully believe in our hearts, and fully trust Jesus with our lives, so we can legitimately say; “Come see what I’ve seen, and believe as I have believed”.**

### JOHN 5

**1 “**Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.”

*Note: There are three “Jewish Festivals” that Jesus and every other Torah-observant Jewish man went to Jerusalem for each year. (John 6 Passover, John 7 Succoth). The one mentioned here is not named specifically. Could be any of them. Sabbath is mentioned, but that happens every week.*

**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.”

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**3**Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. **[*4]****For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had*. **5**One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **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?”

**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.”

**8**Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” **9**At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Later manuscripts say in John5:4 that an angel would go into the pool of Bethesda and stir up the water. Whomever stepped into it first after it swirled would be immediately healed.

When Jesus met the invalid man who was there, he asked;

“Do you want to get well?” Seems like an odd question. It would seem obvious that he wants to get well. He was complaining that he can’t get into the healing pool fast enough to be the first one, so he was never healed.

Why did Jesus ask that? It may be because the man had spent most of his life in this pitiful state, that he knew nothing else. Perhaps he had gotten so accustomed to his sad predicament that the idea of being lifted out of it, may be fearful and shocking.

He may have had what some psychologist call “Victim Mentality”, a syndrome (similar to Stockholm Syndrome) where a person becomes comfortable in a very dysfunctional or unhealthy situation.

“Victim Mentality” rests on three key beliefs:

* Bad things happen and will keep happening.
* Other people or circumstances are to blame.
* Any efforts to create change will fail, so there’s no point in trying.
* Relief only comes from feeling pity for oneself or receiving sympathy from others.

We don’t know enough about this man to properly assess his psychological well-being, but we know that Jesus wanted to change it.

Remember, one of the reasons Jesus came, was to destroy the works of the Devil.

**1st John 3:8** “ The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

Jesus saw this man’s life stuck in a state of self-pity and victimization. When Jesus questioned him, the man did not answer yes or no, he began telling him his story about having no one to help him, and others getting in ahead of Him. Whether Jesus was moved by compassion for the man, or anger over the work of the devil in his life (or both), he lifted him up, not only onto his feet, but out of his life of despair and victimization.

He didn’t pray over him, or touch him, or place him into the water or anything like that, His next words were simply *“get up!”,* and he did!

The man did not know who Jesus was, nor had he heard any of Jesus teachings yet. He was very likely a God-fearing and had some level of faith because he was at the pool near the temple. When Jesus approached him and asked him to stand and walk, *he believed*, that he could and *he did*.

Jesus wants to do that in many of us and the people we know. Those who are so downtrodden by the works of the enemy. Whether we are stuck in a victim mentality because of something we did, someone else did, or just unfortunate circumstances, Jesus doesn’t want us to stay in it, he wants to lift us out of it. All we need to do is believe. It may not happen in the way or timing that we hope, but nothing will happen if we allow doubt to prevail and don’t believe. (Remember what James says about one who doubts…)

**James 1:7“**That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.”

**The Sabbath**

**9b**”The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, **10**and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

**11**But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

**12**So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

**13**The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

**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.” **15**The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was *Jesus* who had made him well.”

### This is quite a warning. Jesus warns him to remain grateful and persistent in faith. If he turns back to a life of sin, after being rescued by Jesus himself, he is willingly turning from God and making himself vulnerable again to the works of the devil, which this time could be worse.

### Jesus is called into question by the Pharisees.

**16 “**So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. **17**In his defense Jesus said to them, “*My Father* is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” **18**For this reason they tried all the more to *kill him*; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling *God his own Father*, making himself *equal with God*.

These religious leaders are trying to impose their view of the Word of God upon Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus points out in the next section that the scriptures that they are referring to (that they feel they are authorities of), are given by God, and are about Jesus. Since they don’t recognize this, they don’t know God and don’t understand the scriptures.

**19**Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, 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. **20**For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. **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. **22**Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **23**that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

**24**“*Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life* and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. **25**Very truly I tell you, 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. **26**For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **27**And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

**28**“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice **29**and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

He may be speaking about what was to take place during His death and resurrection. He is also talking about what will happen in the afterlife.

***[Matt 27:51-53“51****At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split****52****and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.****53****They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.”]*

**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.

**31**“If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. **32**There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

(He is talking about John the Baptist)

**33**“You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. **34**Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. **35**John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

**36**“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. **37**And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, **38**nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. **39**You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that *testify about me*, **40**yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

**41**“I do not accept glory from human beings, **42***but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.* **43**I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. **44**How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

**God is Love** – that’s how you know.

**45**“But do not think *I* will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. **46**If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. **47**But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”<>

Jesus understood the scriptures more than anyone else, including the Pharisees. His test was simple “24*whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life*”. Regardless of how much of the Torah (or the Tanakh) that they had memorized, if they did not recognize Jesus whom the Father has sent, then they did not know God or the scriptures.

He simply says, you are violating the actual law you hold so pridefully by not believing in me. [LAW = MOSES]

“45Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. **46**If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me”.

*“He wrote about me”* - He wrote of the Messiah, and Jesus is the Messiah,

* Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
* Genesis 49:10 “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.”
* Deuteronomy 18:15 ”The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.”

They were using Moses to judge Jesus, but Jesus said Moses judges THEM.

The Pharisees (teachers of the law), tried to present themselves as righteous and God-fearing. They began persecuting Jesus for healing a lame man on the Sabbath, and then decided to kill Him for calling *God his own Father.*

The simple fact that they rejected Jesus, put them at odds with God and in opposition to His Word. Jesus told them, *“nor does His word dwell in you, for you do* not believe*the one He sent.”*

It all comes down to believing in Jesus, putting your trust completely into His hands. If someone does not do that, they are not of God, especially if they try to use God’s word to try to condemn you. That’s exactly what the Pharisees did.

*[Example: Friend who is a wonderful Christian man, and an elected community leader. He works very hard at being friendly to everyone, even the ones who oppose him and publicly speak out against him, particularly for his Christian views. A mutual friend contacted me a few days ago to alert we to the fact that our friend was being mercilessly attacked and publicly ridiculed at a meeting. When I looked into it, I saw that by simply standing up firmly for his values he was being called many disparaging names, including “unchristian”. ]*

Isn’t it interesting that many of those who don’t even believe in God and certainly reject the Lordship of His Son, feel that they are in an authoritative position to judge what is Christian and Unchristian??

Do not let “modern-day Pharisees” *(those who think that they are in a position to judge right and wrong, yet reject the Lordship of Jesus)* condemn you. If your heavenly father doesn’t condemn you, then those who reject Him certainly have no right to either.

The only judgement that matters has to do with Jesus.

Do you…, or don’t you…, BELIEVE?

***John 5:*24“*Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life* and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”**

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