

The Lord of the Sabbath and Equal with God

John 5:1-18

“The main thing is to keep the
main thing the main thing.”

Matthew 18:36

“Teacher, which is the great
commandment in the Law?”

Matthew 18:37-60

And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

The Miracle

John 5:1-9

I. The Setting - v. 1-5

Jesus went up to Jerusalem

During a feast of the Jews

By the sheep gate at a pool called Bethesda, meaning
“House of Mercy”

In the porticoes lay the sick and disabled people

One man there had been sick for 38 years

They were waiting for the stirring up of the water by
an angel of the Lord











The Miracle

John 5:1-9

2. The Conversation - v. 6-8

When Jesus saw him, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition,

Jesus said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”

The sick man answered, “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.”

Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.”

The Miracle

John 5:1-9

3. The Action - v. 9

The healing was immediate

The man's obedience was immediate

Observations:

Water was not involved

Faith was not involved

It was done on the Sabbath

Jesus removed Himself from the picture - v. 13b

The Response

John 5:10-16

I. By the Jewish leaders - v. 10-13, 16

They did NOT mention the healing after 38 years

They charged the man with breaking the Sabbath law

They wanted to know, who is the man who told you to carry your pallet?

Notes on the Sabbath

Exodus 20:8-11 - “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Notes on the Sabbath

Jeremiah 17:21-22, 27 - 'Thus says the Lord, "Take heed for yourselves, and do not carry any load on the sabbath day or bring anything in through the gates of Jerusalem. You shall not bring a load out of your houses on the sabbath day nor do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers."

Notes on the Sabbath

2 Chronicles 36:21 - to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

Notes on the Sabbath

Exodus 31:12-13 - The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a SIGN between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

Notes on the Sabbath

Ezekiel 20:10-12 - “So I took them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. I gave them My statutes and informed them of My ordinances, by which, if a man observes them, he will live. Also I gave them My sabbaths to be a SIGN between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.”

The Response

John 5:10-16

2. By Jesus - v. 14

Command to the man: Be turning from your sin

Warning to the man: that something worse could happen if he did not turn from his sin

3. By the man - v. 11, 15

The Main Thing

John 5:17-18

1. Jesus and His Father are continually working, Sabbaths included
2. The Jews knew that Jesus claimed to be equal with God

“When the Jewish authorities heard Jesus call God “my (own) Father,” they did not do what many moderns have done. They did not try to tone down the character of Christ’s sonship. They immediately understood that Jesus claimed for himself deity in the highest possible sense of that term. That claim was either the most wicked blasphemy, to be punished with death; or else, it was the most glorious truth, to be accepted by faith. The very character of the sign which Jesus had just now performed should have caused these religious leaders to adopt the latter alternative. Instead, they chose the former.”



