

(43) After the two days He departed for Galilee. (For Jesus Himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) So, when He came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him, having seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they, too, had gone to the feast.

(46) So, He came again to Cana in Galilee, where He had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and asked Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” The official said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

(50) Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. So, he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household. This was now the second sign that Jesus did when He had come from Judea to Galilee.

(5:1) After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids --- blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

(6) When Jesus saw him there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “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.” 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.

(9b) Now that day was the Sabbath. So, the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

(14) Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Think on these things:

- 1) An official from Capernaum came to Jesus to seek healing for his sick son. Do you think this is a Jewish or Roman official? How is this miracle different from Jesus' earlier miracles (v.50)?
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- 2) What was the effect of the son's healing upon this desperate father and his home (vs.53-54)?
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- 3) What is unique about the Pool at Bethesda (see v.4 or your Bible footnote)? That is, why would all these sick and disabled people just hang around the pool --- not for days, but years?!

- 4) How did this lame man demonstrate that he had faith? Also, in terms of healing, do you notice that there were lots of people who needed healing, but Jesus chose only to heal this one man?

- 5) Why was the healed man in trouble with the Jewish leadership? What charge did they bring against him? What are the Jewish leaders totally missing from this man's story?

Charge? _____

Missed? _____

- 6) How do you understand verse 14? This is Jesus speaking, and He tells the man to, "Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." Does this mean some people are sick or poor or worse as a result of living out-of-step with God (i.e., living sinfully)? Can we --- should we --- apply this concept to all who are sick or poor or not whole in some way? Consider the following Bible passages:

Leviticus 26:15-16 _____

Deuteronomy 28:58-61 _____

2 Kings 13:14 _____

John 9:1-3 _____

1 Corinthians 11:29-31 _____

Matthew 5:45 _____

Final thought: _____

People and situations I want to pray for this week: