

John 5:1-15 - A Lame Man Waiting by a Miraculous Pool

5 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. **2** Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. **3** Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. **5** One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

7 “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

8 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, **10** so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

11 But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

12 “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

13 The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. **14** But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” **15** Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Personal Bible Study - John 5:1-15

Read John 5:1-6 - Jesus goes to Jerusalem for one of the religious holidays that defined Jewish culture and religion. He enters a place that is full of sick people and finds one man who has been there for a particularly long time - 38 years. He asks him a pretty surprising question: does he want to get well? That would seem like a very obvious question - of course he wants to be healthy, doesn't he? But perhaps he's become comfortable in a life without expectations. Maybe he doesn't really want to get well, and perhaps he doesn't even know it.

- Can a person become more comfortable with problems that hurt them than they are in facing the unknown? Is anyone more interested in staying miserable than in doing the hard work to get better?
- Do you think you ever face that trap? Have you ever chosen to stay stuck in the problems you are familiar with rather than risk getting healthy?

Read John 5:7 - The man's response - I can't - is the cry of every helpless, hopeless heart. Everyone who is stuck in being drunk. Everyone who thinks that they have no other choice but to ruin their lives. Everyone in a failed relationship who won't make changes in their own life that might make the relationship better. What all of them have in common is those two words, "I can't." And they all have one other thing in common: a story about how the problem isn't their fault. People who are stuck reject responsibility. But Jesus didn't ask him about any of that - he asked him if he *wanted* to be well.

- What comfort is there in saying, "I can't"? Do you think it's attractive to say that because it means you can't be held accountable? Is it something else?
- Have you ever made excuses when you knew better?
- Have you ever been in such a hopeless, helpless situation that it seemed like excuses and despair were all that were left for you? How did you get out of it?

Read John 5:8 - The man was right about his disability. When he said, "I can't," unlike a lot of us, he was telling the truth. The man couldn't solve his own problems. He needed help. But Jesus isn't intimidated by hearing someone say "I can't." He simply changes the man's abilities. With a breath of the Lord, the man goes from unable to empowered.

- Has Jesus ever done that in your life? Have you ever found that because you trusted Jesus, what you were able to do suddenly changed? What was that like?

Read John 5:9-13 - One of the more bizarre things in this story is that after the man is made better, the religious people begin to yell at him for carrying his mat. The fact that a man who had been sick for 38 years was suddenly well was something that they missed. God had worked a miracle in their town, and all that they could see was behavior that made them think that God might be angry at them. Instead of seeing God's favor at work, they could only fear God's wrath.

- Have you ever been part of a group with crazy priorities like this? What is it like to be with people who are very devoted to God but who don't seem to know him?

Read John 5:14-15 - Jesus finds the man and warns him about sin. He warns that if he stays committed to sin, something worse than being paralyzed for 38 years might happen to him! The man is being invited out of sin if he wants it. But instead, he acts like an enemy of Jesus, going to find Jesus's enemies and telling them it was Jesus who had done what so upset them.

- Can you imagine God doing such a dramatic work in your life, and then rather than being God's friend you would tattle on him?
- Have you ever had God act in your life but then struggled to act like you were God's friend? What would it look like if you became Jesus's good, trustworthy friend?

Juan 5:1-15 - Jesús sana a un paralítico

5 Algún tiempo después, Jesús subió a Jerusalén, pues se celebraba una fiesta de los judíos. **2** Había allí, junto a la puerta de las Ovejas, un estanque rodeado de cinco entradas, cuyo nombre en hebreo es Betzatá. **3** En esas entradas se hallaban tendidos muchos enfermos, ciegos, cojos y paralíticos. **5** Entre ellos se encontraba un hombre que llevaba enfermo treinta y ocho años. **6** Cuando Jesús lo vio tirado en el suelo y se enteró de que ya tenía mucho tiempo de estar así, le preguntó:

—¿Quieres quedar sano?

7 —Señor —respondió—, no tengo a nadie que me meta en el estanque mientras se agita el agua y, cuando trato de hacerlo, otro se mete antes.

8 —Levántate, recoge tu camilla y anda —le dijo Jesús.

9 Al instante aquel hombre quedó sano, así que tomó su camilla y echó a andar. Pero ese día era sábado. **10** Por eso los judíos dijeron al que había sido sanado:

—Hoy es sábado; no te está permitido cargar tu camilla.

11 —El que me sanó me dijo: “Recoge tu camilla y anda” —les respondió.

12 —¿Quién es ese hombre que te dijo: “Recógela y anda”? —le preguntaron.

13 El que había sido sanado no tenía idea de quién era, porque Jesús se había escabullido entre la mucha gente que había en el lugar.

14 Después de esto Jesús lo encontró en el Templo y le dijo:

—Mira, ya has quedado sano. No vuelvas a pecar, no sea que te ocurra algo peor.

15 El hombre se fue e informó a los judíos que Jesús era quien lo había sanado.

Estudio bíblico personal – Juan 5:1-15

Lean Juan 5:1-6 – Jesús va a Jerusalén para una fiesta religiosa judía. Entra a un lugar lleno de personas enfermas. Ahí encuentra a un hombre que lleva treinta y ocho años enfermo. Jesús le hace una pregunta sorprendente. Le pregunta si quiere sanar. Parece obvio que sí. Pero tal vez el hombre se acostumbró a vivir sin esperanza. Tal vez no quiere sanar. Tal vez ni él mismo lo sabe.

- ¿Puede una persona acostumbrarse a sus problemas más que a lo desconocido? ¿Hay quienes prefieren quedarse en su dolor antes que hacer el esfuerzo de mejorar?
- ¿Alguna vez caíste en esa trampa? ¿Alguna vez escogiste quedarte en un problema conocido en vez de arriesgarte a sanar?

Lean Juan 5:7 – La respuesta del hombre, "no puedo", es el grito de todo corazón sin esperanza. La dice quien está atrapado en el alcohol. La dice quien cree que solo le queda arruinar su vida. La dice quien está en una relación rota y no quiere cambiar nada. Todos comparten esas dos palabras: "no puedo". Y comparten algo más: una excusa para no asumir su culpa. Pero Jesús no le preguntó nada de eso. Solo le preguntó si quería sanar.

- ¿Qué consuelo hay en decir "no puedo"? ¿Es porque así nadie te puede culpar, o hay otra razón?
- ¿Alguna vez pusiste una excusa cuando sabías que estabas mal?
- ¿Alguna vez llegaste a un punto tan sin esperanza que solo quedaban excusas? ¿Cómo saliste de eso?

Lean Juan 5:8 – El hombre tenía razón: de verdad no podía. A diferencia de muchos de nosotros, decía la verdad. Necesitaba ayuda de fuera. Pero a Jesús no le asusta oír un "no puedo". Simplemente cambia lo que el hombre puede hacer. Con una palabra del Señor, pasa de no poder a tener el poder.

- ¿Alguna vez Jesús hizo eso en tu vida? ¿Alguna vez, por confiar en él, tu capacidad cambió de repente? ¿Cómo fue eso?

Lean Juan 5:9-13 – Algo extraño de esta historia: después de sanar al hombre, los religiosos lo regañan por cargar su camilla. Un hombre enfermo treinta y ocho años ahora está sano, y ellos ni lo notan. Dios hizo un milagro en su pueblo, y lo único que vieron fue una regla rota. En vez de ver el favor de Dios, solo temieron su enojo.

- ¿Alguna vez fuiste parte de un grupo con prioridades tan extrañas? ¿Cómo es estar con gente muy religiosa que parece no conocer a Dios en realidad?

Lean Juan 5:14-15 – Jesús encuentra al hombre y le advierte sobre el pecado. Le dice que, si sigue en el pecado, algo peor le podría pasar que treinta y ocho años enfermo. Jesús lo invita a dejar el pecado. Pero el hombre hace lo contrario. Va donde los enemigos de Jesús y les dice que fue él quien lo sanó.

- ¿Puedes imaginar que Dios hiciera algo así de grande en tu vida, y que tú, en vez de ser su amigo, lo acusaras ante otros?
- ¿Alguna vez Dios actuó en tu vida, pero te costó actuar como su amigo? ¿Cómo sería convertirte en un buen amigo de Jesús?