



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Thirty-Eight Years

Focus Verse: John 5:36 - But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Lesson Text: John 5:1-47

Truth About God: Jesus is God in flesh.

Truth For My Life: I will be a witness and testify that Jesus is who He said He is.

The Book of John records the sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed were all eking out their living at the Pool of Bethesda. They all wanted healing, but they believed they had to wait until the waters in the pool were troubled. As Jesus wound His way through this sea of sickness and paralysis. He met a man who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. Jesus knew exactly when the man was laid there and when he left there, so He cut right past chit chat and asked a seemingly obvious question, *“Wilt thou be made whole?”* (John 5:6). But the man didn’t give Jesus an answer, just an excuse. *“Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me”* (John 5:7). Jesus did not even flinch. He commanded the man, *“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”* (John 5:8).

After thirty-eight years of waiting for a miracle at the pool, Jesus healed the lame beggar. But what happened on the next day? It must have been a sight for the people coming to the marketplace to walk by the pool at Bethesda and not see him lying there. He had become a fixture, a certainty. As sure as the sun shines in the east and dims in the west, the thirty-eight-year-long lame beggar at Bethesda would be lame and begging at Bethesda. But not the next day. His absence was evidence. Doubtless, people asked where he was. Did he die? Did someone carry him to their house? No and no. Jesus healed him. He was no longer lame, and he was no longer a beggar. He was completely healed. Jesus told him to cease sinning.

The religious upper crust wanted to kill Jesus because He had worked this wonder on the Sabbath Day. The evidence and witnesses were piling up for Jesus’ deity. No one else could do what Jesus could do. Although the Jews were upset that Jesus had worked on the Sabbath, none could deny that a man who had been unable to walk was walking. Neither could they prove that even one scripture on one scroll contradicted who Jesus would be or what He would do. But these Jewish leaders were unwilling to believe, partly because they knew it would mean they would lose their power and influence to Him. They were not ready to give that up. Further, they would have to repent of their sins and follow Him. They were not ready to take those steps either.

Perhaps you have been battling an addiction that stole your past and threatens your future, but Jesus cares for you enough to set you free. Maybe a sickness has sapped your health and even your hope; Jesus cares enough for you to sit next to you as the doctor reads the diagnosis, and Jesus will heal you from your sickness or give you grace to make it through. **Have faith that Jesus, who cared enough to show up at Bethesda’s pool, cares enough to show up wherever you are.**

Jesus is not just a prophet or preacher or wonder worker or outstanding teacher. Jesus is the Almighty God who came in flesh. He is Lord and God. He is not just the Lamb laid in the manger in Bethlehem; He is also the Lion who roared out of the grave in Jerusalem. This miracle is recorded—along with all other miracles—that we *“might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”* (John 20:31).

We are called to believe the Word of God for ourselves. Jesus commanded us *“Search the scriptures; for in them . . . are they which testify of me”* (John 5:39). From the beautiful beginning in Genesis 1 all the way through the beautiful ending in Revelation 22, the Scriptures testify that **Jesus was coming, Jesus has come, and Jesus is coming back.**

What about you? What further evidence do you need? We have the Word of God, the testimony of God Himself, and the wonders Jesus worked, which no man could work. We have the grandeur and glory of all creation, which declares the glory of God. **Take it all in. Search the Scriptures.** Comb through the evidence. **Take a long look at your own life, and you will see what the Jews should have seen: Jesus is Almighty God.**