

John 5

- I. 5:1-15 Do You Want Be Made Well?
- II. 5:16-23 Why They Sought to Kill Him
- III. 5:24-30 Two Resurrections
- IV. 5:31-47 Five Witnesses

- I. 5:1-15 Do You Want Be Made Well?

- A. 5:6 Jesus never asks dumb questions. If we look at the man's answer, we see that the question is valid. The man doesn't really answer Jesus.

- It's possible to become so comfortable in our weaknesses that we find it difficult to operate outside of them even if Christ says we can.
- Prisoners often find life on the outside extremely difficult. Growing is a challenge.
- We too can become so accustomed to a lack of God's power operating in our lives that we almost don't want to experience it.

- B. 5:8 Jesus commands the man to do the impossible – to do what he knows he cannot do. Christ's command is Christ's empowering. When He tells us to do something He gives us the ability to do it.

- We may fail Jesus. I have done so many times.
- Jesus will never fail us.
- Do you believe that?

- C. 5:9 The man had to *take up his bed and walk*. He **had to do** what was impossible just moments before. This is very important for at least two reasons:

- i. The man's faith is reinforced by his actions.

Action draws faith out of mere theory into reality. A man walking, bed in hand, knows that he is healed. He doesn't just think that he is. It's very hard to doubt you can do something while you're in the very act of doing it successfully.

- ii. The actions make it harder to go back to his previous condition.

Action puts distance between us and our former, weakened state. It's important to burn all bridges between where we are now spiritually and anything that once held back our growth. Otherwise we'll be tempted to look back after putting our hand to the plow. We may begin longing for the delicacies of Egypt and forget that when we lived there we were slaves.

- D. 5:14 Not all infirmities are caused by sin, but some are. Perhaps this man's sin resulted in his affliction. Therefore, Christ gives him this warning after healing him.

II. 5:16-23 Why They Sought to Kill Him

A. Christ's claims to Deity:

i. The Son gives life to whom He will.

John 11:25-26 (NKJV) Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

ii. Judgment is committed to the Son Listen to Peter's message in Acts 10:

Acts 10:40-42 (NKJV) ⁴⁰Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

iii. The Son deserves the same honor as the Father.

Revelation 5:13 (NKJV) And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

III. 5:24-30 Two Resurrections

A. 5:28-29 Christ's general statement here is explained in more detail later in the NT:

i. When Christ comes for His church

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

ii. Just after Christ returns at the Second Coming

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV) And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

iii. At the final resurrection of the wicked: The Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

IV. 5:31-47 Five Witnesses

A. 5:32 **The Holy Spirit**

*John 15:26 (NKJV) "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**"*

B. 5:33-35 **John the Baptist**

John 1:34 (NKJV) And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

C. 5:36 **Christ's Works**

John 10:37-38 (NKJV) ³⁷If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

D. 5:37 **God the Father**

Matthew 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

E. 5:39 **The Scriptures**

Luke 24:25-27 (NKJV) ²⁵Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Jesus Christ is Enough

"There is a weakness among us in evangelical circles--we put a plus sign after Christ: Christ plus something else. It is always the pluses that ruin our spiritual lives personally, and it is always the additions that weaken the church. God has declared that Christ, His Son, is sufficient. He is the way, the truth and the life. He is wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. He is the wisdom of God and the power of God and He gathers up in Himself all things and in Him all things consist. So we do not want Jesus Christ plus something else." – A. W. Tozer

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

*Romans 13:14 (NKJV) But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

*2 Peter 1:2-3 (NKJV) ²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.*