

• **THE MAIN POINT:** Jesus was equal to God. (John 5:18) It has to be that way. Human kind is so immobilized by the power of sin that no man can connect heaven to earth again. Faith in Him was inspired by the demonstration of God's power. John focuses on 7 miraculous signs that Jesus did to prove that he was the Messiah - the Savior of the world.

4:43-45 When the Lord declared to His hometown people that He was the Son of God come in a human life to be Savior of the world, they had some trouble believing it. (Luke 4:16-30) Jesus responding to their rejection said, "A _____ is honored everywhere except in his _____ country." However, Jesus had a better welcome this time because many of the Galileans had seen his _____ when they were there for the Passover celebration. The signs were done to demonstrate that He was "God with us."

OWN COUNTRY. It is somewhat understandable that the people of his hometown—the people who had seen him grow up— would say, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Luke 4:16-30 "He's just the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." Mark 6:3 In fact, Jesus' own mother and brothers apparently thought he had lost his mind and had come to take him at one time. "Your mother and brothers are outside and they want to speak to you." Matthew 12:46-47 It is not uncommon for the families of people who become profoundly converted to Jesus to think they need to see a psychiatrist. • However, His family changed their minds after the resurrection. Paul says of James, the Lord's (half) brother, "Jesus was raised on the third day... and he was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. After that he was seen by more than 500 of his followers...then he was seen by James...last of all I saw Him." I Corinthians 15:4-8 James became leader of the first church in Jerusalem. Acts 12:7, 15:13, 21:18 Paul says that the only apostle he talked to after his conversion other than Peter was "James, our Lord's brother." Galatians 1:19

• A personal experience of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ has been convincing people to this day that Jesus is God, Lord, Savior, and coming King.

• The whole book of Acts is about those who saw the resurrection of Jesus, witnessing to it and the witnesses of the resurrection doing the same things Jesus had done."

4:46-54 THE SECOND SIGN (POWER TO HEAL). Healing the little boy. Jesus passes through Galilee and comes to Cana where he had done his first sign (power over the creation), the turning of water into _____. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose _____ was very _____. He begged Jesus to come and heal him. Jesus tested the motives of the crowd whom he said would not believe in him unless they saw _____ and wonders. The boy's father, however, had only one motive—the healing of his son. Jesus saw his faith and said, "Go back home, your son will _____!" When the father got home, he found out that his son's fever had left him at the _____ time Jesus had said, "Your son will live!" This was Jesus' _____ miraculous sign.

BELIEVED. Believe means two things: (1) To know something is true; and then (2) to act, to risk on it. As far as the man was concerned, when Jesus said his son was healed, it was so. It was done and he headed home. Likewise for us, when we take the promises of the Lord for the needs in our life, we exercise faith and say, "This is the truth. It is so and I will not accept any other way of looking at this except through the words of my Lord, who is Lord of all and mighty Savior." Sense Knowledge looks at what it sees and knows from the world and accepts only that as true. Faith knowledge looks at the Word of the Lord.

5:1-9 Jesus returns to Jerusalem. Passing through the _____ gate, he comes to a large public pool of water called the pool of _____. It was surrounded by 5 porches which gave shade. The word about the pool was that sometimes an _____ would come down and stir up the water and the person in the pool got healed. Therefore, under the porches were crowds of _____ people, hoping their day would come. One of these was a man who had been paralyzed for _____ years. Jesus knew all about him (as he does all of us). He said, "_____?" The man said he couldn't because he had no friend or relative to get him into the pool. Someone else always got in there _____ of him. However, a friend was now before him. Jesus told him, "_____, _____ your sleeping mat, and _____!" The man believed and obeyed.

SHEEP GATE. The various gates where roads coming through the walls into the city of Jerusalem had commonplace names related to something that happened there or was special about that entrance. This gate was literally called the gate "Pertaining to sheep."

BETHESDA. The name means "Place of Outpouring" or "House of Grace." It was called that because people were known to have been healed by God's outpouring and grace in that pool. Some scholars think that this pool was fed by an intermittent spring, which sometimes bubbled up like those in Yellowstone Park and other places. The common wisdom was that an angel caused the bubbling up and God was present to heal at that point. This pool had become like Lourdes in France. There are Christian institutions for the sick and the old called Bethesda.

LIKE TO? There are some ways of looking at his failure to get healed. (1) He had not stopped sinning in some way. Jesus says to him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." 5:14 Commonly physical problems are connected to emotional attitudes which are sinful. Anger and colitis. Worry and ulcers. Paralysis and un-forgiveness. (2) Part of him perhaps did not want to get healed. He was on a sort of disability. He may have been a beggar or he had a family that took care of him. There were some good things about his life. He didn't have to work. He had no responsibilities. He could sit in this pleasant place

and talk with his cronies and enjoy the day. (3) As he said, he had no friend or relative or compassionate person to roll him into the pool. He was one of the great company of people who live all their lives with a disability and without hope.

WHAT HEALS? Jesus then asks a question to challenge him to consider another source of help -- the God who heals through persons. "A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church...To some one else he gives the power to heal the sick." I Cor. 12:7-9

STAND UP - PICK UP - WALK. This man needed to act on the Word of God, the Son, in order to be healed. He needed to exercise faith. Faith in these instances is "acting as if" one is healed, or prospered, or things are different---because they "actually are" from God's point of view, from the point of view of His promises.

5:9-18 Jesus broke the _____ rule according to the interpretation of the Jewish pastors. It had become ridiculous. It was _____ to carry a sleeping mat on the Sabbath. So the Jewish leaders began _____ Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. Like politicians of every time, there was nothing Jesus could have done that they would not have found fault with. Jesus answer was that "*My _____ never stops working, so why should I?*" (as also God and creator and sustainer of the creation.) If God is his _____, then He, as the Son of God, had a right to do whatever he thought right at any time. So Jews were angry at him for making himself _____ with God.

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____