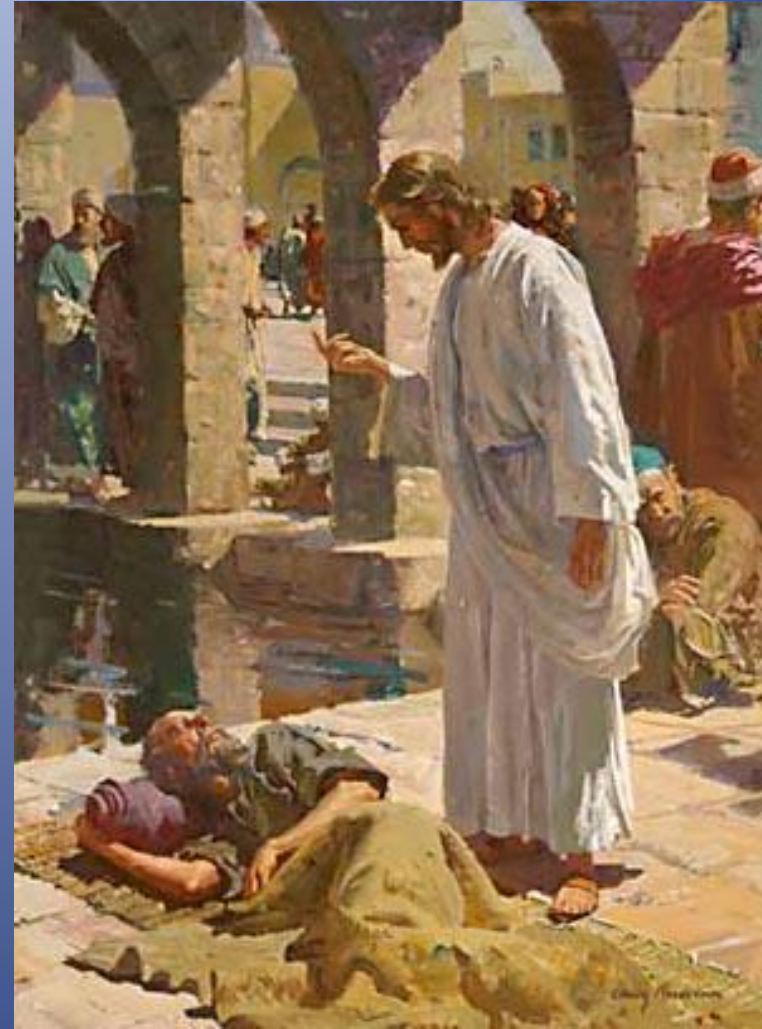


The paralytic of 38 years

John 5

Yrs 7 & 8 – 25th March 2012

*Do you want to be made well?
(John 5:6)*



What are the 7 Sunday Gospel readings during Lent?

- Week 1** – Sunday of the treasures – Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt 6:19-33)
- Week 2** – Sunday of Temptation – Victory over the temptations of Satan (Matt 4:1-11)
- Week 3** – Sunday of the Lost Son – Turning back to God (Luke 15:11-32)
- Week 4** – Sunday of the Samaritan Women – Rejecting the sins of the world (John 4:1-42)
- Week 5** – Sunday of the Paralytic – Arise from sin and be healed (John 5:1-18)
- Week 6** – Sunday of the blind man – I was blind and now I see (John 9:1-41)
- Week 7** – Palm Sunday – God enters our heart. (Matt 21:1-17, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:29-48, Matt 12:12-19)



Lent is about Resurrection by turning from sin to a new life!

What are the 7 Miracles in the Gospel of John?

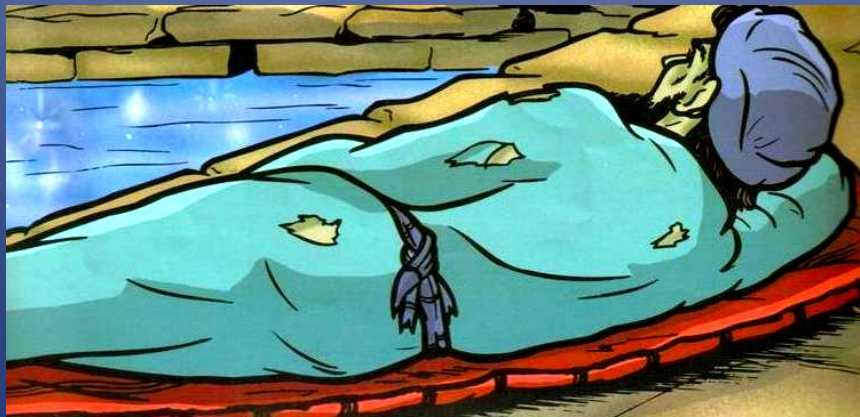


1. The miracle of water into wine (John 2:1-11)
2. Healing the noble man's son (John 4:46-53)
3. Healing the man at the pool (John 5:1-9)
4. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:4-13)
5. Jesus walks on water (John 6:16-21)
6. Healing the blind man (John 9:1-12)
7. Raises the dead (John 11:30-44)

Jesus meets our needs!

Jesus knows our needs and Seeks us out!

- The Paralytic Man: *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, Do you want to be made well? (John 5:6)*
- The Lost Son: *But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)*
- The Samaritan Women: *But He needed to go through Samaria. (John 4:4)*



“DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL?”

The strangest question in the Bible?

- The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” (John 5:7)
- “It’s not my fault”, “I am a victim of circumstance”, “no one helped me”, “everyone got in before me”
- **Are we the same???**
- Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” (John 5:8)
 - basically... “No more excuses! Just get up on your feet and go!”

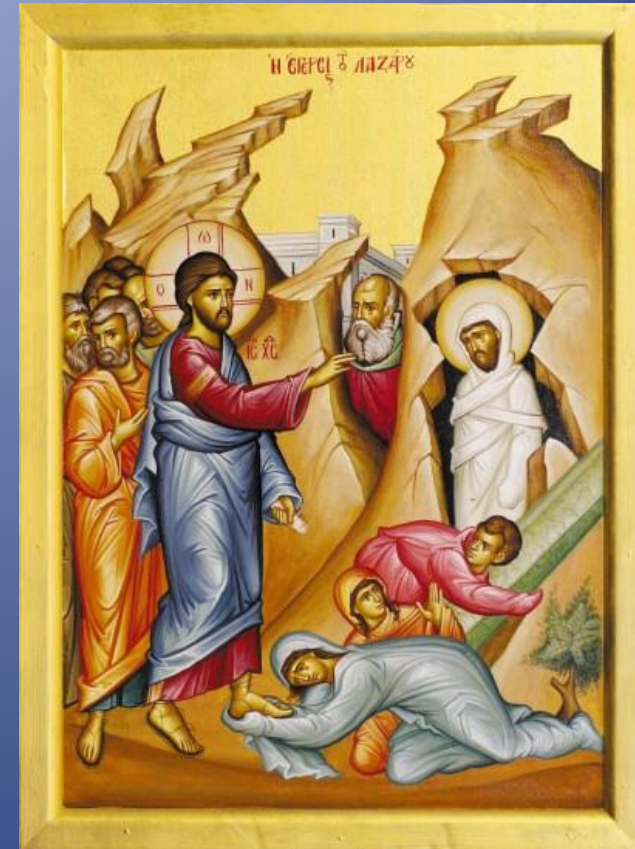


We can't do this without God and He can't/won't do this without us!!!

- It's amazing that in 38 years this guy didn't figure something out.

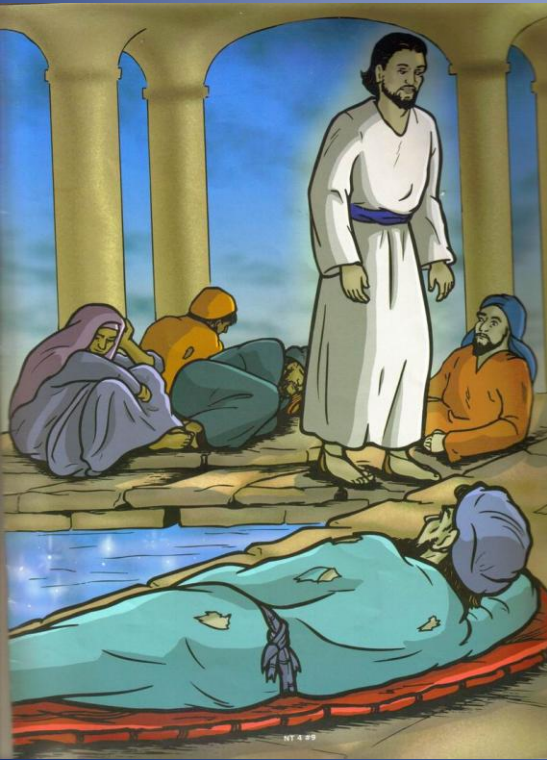
GOD WILL NOT DO IT WITHOUT US TAKING SOME INITIATIVE!

- Zacchaeus could not see... *so he climbed the tree*
- The 4 friends could not get through the crowd... *so they cut a hole in the roof.*
- The lady with the issue of blood could not get to Jesus... *so she fought through the crowd to touch His garments.*
- Jesus said, “take away the stone” ... *only then did He raise Lazarus*



If we have a spiritual problem we should ask OURSELVES what we are doing about it!

What does sin have to do with it?



- **The Paralytic Man:** *Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you. (John 5:14)*
- **The Adulterous Woman:** *And Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more. (John 8:11)*
- **The Man Born Blind:** *Jesus answered, Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (John 9:3)*

The Pool of Healing **vs** the Pool of Baptism

- The healing of one man every year in the sheep's pool clearly points to the Christian mystery of ***Baptism.***



Pool of Healing	Pool of Baptism
One man healed every year	All men can be healed at any time
Needed a helper	We can go by our own free will
Heals the body	Heals the soul



Q. Where did the incident take place?

A. The Pool of Bethesda

- Near sheep gate. Sheep gate was the gate used to bring sheep into the city to the temple for sacrifice. (Nehemiah 3:1)
- The Bethesda pool was discovered by archeologists in 1960s



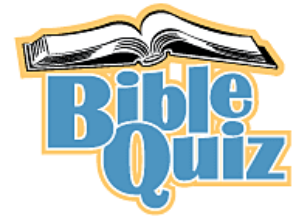


Q. What was the Occassion?

A. Feast of The Jews & Sabbath

- There are 4 main Jewish feasts
 - the Feast of Unleavened (Passover)
 - the Feast of Harvest (First Fruits)
 - the Feast of Tabernacles
 - the Feast of weeks (Pentecost)





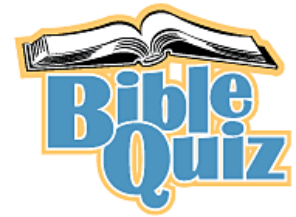
Q. Why were there a lot of disabled people near the Bethesda pool?

A. They were waiting for angel to come and stir waters.

- “For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.”

(John 5:4)



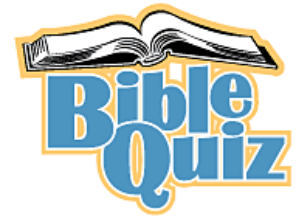


Q. What can you learn about the condition of the disabled man?

A. He was disabled for 38 years (older than Jesus)

- There was nobody to help him (John 5:7) His family may have left him there.
- He was lying there near Bethesda pool in a hope that some day he may get chance to be the first one to get into pool.
- Not really Persistent
- He wanted to be well. But he could not do it by himself. He needed somebody's help.
- He sincerely thought that if I can reach there at right time, I can be healed. The only problem was that he could not?!?!
- He did not even know who Jesus was. Jesus came up to him.



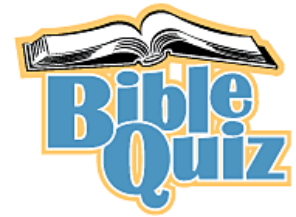


Q. What did Jesus ask him? And what was his reply?

A. Do you want to be made well? The sick man answered Him, Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me. (John 5:6-7)

- It was a strange question. He had been there all these years desperately trying to be well. With this question, Jesus was offering him help. Perhaps, nobody would have asked him to help for years!
- If we are to rephrase the man's answer in one sentence, it would be, "Yes, I want to be well, I just can't get there. Put yourself in his place – you may be desperately trying for physical or emotional healing, peace, joy, purpose, or any personal victory over temptation. Jesus asks us the same simple question!

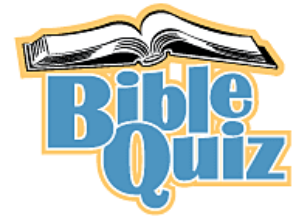




Q. What was Jesus' reply?

- A. "Rise, take up your bed and walk." (John 5:8)
- You don't have to go there. Your healing is right here, right now. You don't have to wait for angel to come to the pool.
 - The man was instantly healed. (After suffering from it for 38 years)



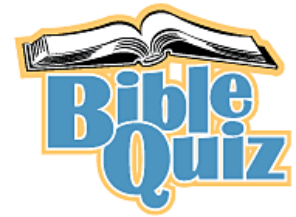


Q. Why were the Jews unhappy?

A. The man was carrying his bed on the Sabbath.

- Pharisees and the teachers of the law had many laws regarding Sabbath about how much to walk or work on Sabbath.
- They were insensitive to the man who was healed after 38 years.
- They cared about laws more than people.



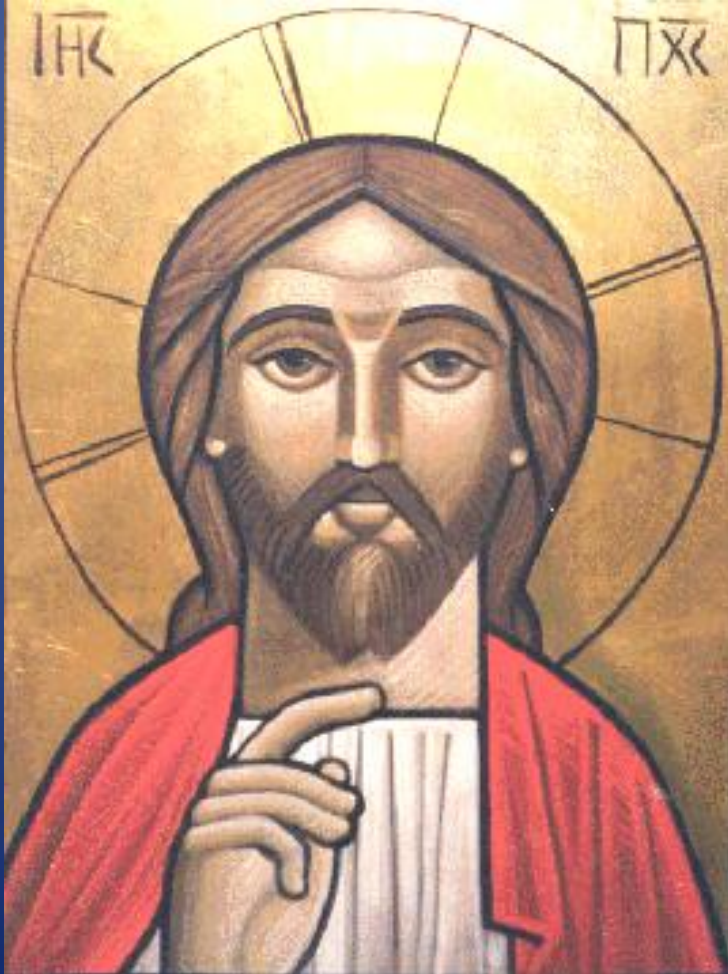


Q. Why did Jesus talk to him about sin? Where does sin come into picture? Do you think sickness is the result of sin?

A. He was physically healed, but he also needed spiritual healing.

- Sickness or disability is sometimes the result of sin... but not always! Check out the surprisingly similar passage of healing blind man in John 9:1-12.
- It was a reminder of much greater healing and change from inside. After all, what can be worst than 38 years of sickness?
- Jesus also gave the similar command to the woman caught in the adultery in John 8: 1-11. (John 8:11)
- The man took heed of Jesus' instruction, thus proclaiming boldly about Jesus healing him.





- Decide if you want to get well (John 5: 1-6)
- Stop giving excuses (John 5:7)
- Do what He says (John 5:8-9)



Glory be to God For Ever. AMEN.

BACKUP

The 5 Porches

- *Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. (John 5:2)*



The Major Jewish Feasts

- ***the Feast of Unleavened (Passover)***

–This occurs the day after *Passover Supper* and lasts 7 days. Israel eats bread without leaven (symbol-sin) (Lev 23:6-7, 10-11). They left Egypt in a hurry—no time for leaven in bread. The unleavened bread symbolized the purging out of the sins of pagan Egypt (1 Cor 5:7-8).

- 1.The *Exodus* from bondage to Egypt began (Ex 12:14)

- 2.*Jesus Crucifixion* — Our Passover Lamb

- 3.The final fall of the Jewish resistance at Massada in Nisan 15, 72 AD

The Major Jewish Feasts

- ***the Feast of Harvest (First Fruits)***

– *Third of the Seven Feasts. Israel brings the first fruits of the harvest into God's house to acknowledge Him as their source (Exod 23:19). 4 historical events happened on this day:*

1. *Noah's Ark rested on Mount Ararat (Gen 8:4), first fruits of a new beginning.*

2. *Israel miraculously crosses over the Red Sea (Exod 14:13-14). First fruits of a new nation reborn from the bondage of Egypt.*

3. *Israel eats the first fruits of the promised land (Josh 5:10-12). Nisan 16 last day God reined Manna. On Nisan 17 Israel ate the first fruits of the promised land. This is celebrated by Israel to this day.*

4. *Jesus Christ rose from the dead (1 Cor 15:20). Jesus was crucified on Nisan 15 and on Nisan 17 rose from the dead—first fruits of all other resurrections.*

The Major Jewish Feasts

• *the Feast of Tabernacles*

- *Instituted by God at the end of the fruit harvest (Sept -Oct). Jewish men required to attend feast in Jerusalem. During this 7 day feast the people are to live in booths made of branches to remember their brethren made to live in booths in the wilderness for 40 years (Lev 23:33-34, 42-43). On each day they are to sacrifice 14 lambs without blemish (Num 29:15, 32).*
- *On this day:*
 - 1. Tishri 15, 1005 BC the dedication of Solomon's Temple (2 Chron 5:2-3, 1 Kings 8:1-2).*
 - 2. Jesus Christ was born, October 1± (John 1:14). He was born on the Feast of Tabernacles Tishri 15, Crucified on the Feast of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, and sent the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost Sivan 6.*
- *On this day Zechariah 14:1-21 is read in all Synagogues because it promises Israel's final Messianic deliverance from persecution and the beginning of the prophesied kingdom.*

The Major Jewish Feasts

- ***the Feast of weeks (Pentecost)***

- *Theme: a new revelation of God's will. Historically on this day:*

1. *God gave Moses the Law on Mount Sinai.*

2. *God gave the Church the Holy Spirit.*

- *Took place 50 days after Feast of First-Fruits; thus, why called Pentecost which means 50. All Jewish males were required to celebrate it at the temple in Jerusalem. It celebrates the giving of the Torah. Jewish tradition teaches that King David was born and died on this day, and that Enoch was taken up to heaven on this day (Gen 5:24).*

What is the Sabbath all about?

- *And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. **And that day was the Sabbath.** 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, **It is the Sabbath;** it is not lawful for you to carry your bed. (John 5:9-10)*

