

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-08 "JESUS: MESSIAH – SERVANT SON"

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JOHN 5:15-18 *The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.*

¹⁶ *And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.* ¹⁷ *But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."*

Vs 18 *This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father. MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD.*

As we return to our Course, "THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY," we continue with the controversy surrounding Jesus' healing of the man at the **Pool of Bethesda**. The issues that arose after the Healing caused the Pharisees to condemn Jesus:

- For making the Man *"Carry his bed"* on the Sabbath...
- For Jesus pronouncement *calling God His Father*... which they saw as a claim that **He was God** ...
- To them He was just a *"misguided fanatic"* who needed to be silenced, therefore, *His words and actions were open to their criticism and judgment...*
- The Jews of the day did not recognize, nor believe, that God was their *"Father"* ... *Abraham and the Patriarchs were their "fathers"*

The Jesus' "sermon" that follows [5:19-47] indicted the Jews for their *"unbelief"* and revealed that it was He, *"Jesus (the Incarnate Son)"* who would Judge all mankind, giving Life only to the dead who had believed in Him.

This applies directly to the theme of our Course: *"Who IS Jesus?"*

- IF Jesus was *"Just a man"* then *"His words"* are open to our evaluation, alteration, opinions, and ultimately, acceptance, or rejection...
- IF Jesus is both *God and Man*, then *"His Words"* carry the same authority as *God's*...
- IF *His Words* are *God's Words* then they are *absolute* and *NOT open to change or rejection*...

We live in a time when people NEED to know the truth, and reject the error that is so prevalent, and persistent.

THE HEALING (Review)

JOHN 5:1-4 [NKJV] *After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

² *Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.* ³ *In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered... .. waiting for the moving of the water.* ⁴ *For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.*

JOHN 5:5-7 *One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.* ⁶ *When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"* ⁷ *The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."*

JOHN 5:8-9 *Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and [be walking about]."* ⁹ *And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.*

The **TESTIMONY of healing** is important as **a declaration of God's desire and willingness**—even if others are not healed in the same way. It is always a demonstration of God's grace.

JOHN 5:15-17 *The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.* ¹⁶ *And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the SABBATH.* ¹⁷ *But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."*

Vs 18 *This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father. MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD.*

Jesus "**The Man**" [**HUMANITY**] declared that He was "**The Father's Son**" [**DEITY**].

Although we might not recognize it, here again John is presenting the absolute Truth of the Deity and Humanity of Jesus. The Jews identified this immediately. There was no confusion as to what Jesus was proclaiming... **He, a man, was "the Son of God"** [Deity]

AFTER THE HEALING...

JOHN 5:9B-15 *Now, the day was the SABBATH.* ¹⁰ *So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the SABBATH, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."* ¹¹ *But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'"* ¹² *They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"* ¹³ *Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.*

¹⁴ *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."*

¹⁵ *The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.*

NO Law: There was no "**LAW**" against what the **LORD** ordered the man to do. **BUT** the Jews had created numerous **additions** to THE LAW to prevent men from getting close to a place of breaking it. **JESUS** consistently ran into conflict with the Pharisees regarding these.

BUT: **nothing would hinder Jesus from demonstrating God's grace and mercy.**

This is one of "7" Miracles Jesus performed on the SABBATH: (6 are healings)

- **The Demoniac in the Synagogue:** Mk 1:21–28
- **Peter's Mother-in-Law:** Mk 1:29–31 – Lk 4:38–40
- **The Man at the Pool of:** JN 5:1–17
- **The Man with the Withered Hand:** LK 6:6–11
- **The Man Born Blind:** JN 9:1–25
- **Releasing the Woman Bound by Arthritis:** LK 13:10-17
- **The Man in the Home of a Pharisee:** LK 14:1–6

Because the SABBATH was a day when man was NOT to work... **Jesus was declaring that Healing was NOT of man but fully of God**

From the Pharisees... **NO Rejoicing: NO Compassion:** Their only interest: **Who DID This?**

JESUS' FOLLOW-UP:

Because Jesus **did not introduce himself**, the man had no idea of who it was. Nor did he know where he was... **He appeared... He healed... He went away...**

JESUS found him **"...in the Temple"** [vs 14] .

The Pharisees **wanted to know** where Jesus was—the man **did not know**.

But the man DID KNOW where to find God: IN THE TEMPLE.

He was surely there to offer Thanksgiving to God for the miracle he had received — to rejoice in his new “freedom!” from pain and the misery of “The Pool”

BUT: If the man did not know where to find JESUS... JESUS knew where to find him!

- His concern was not just in making the man free from the temporal misery of sickness, pain, rejection, and despair.
- JESUS wanted the man to KNOW the full blessings of “salvation... wholeness” [Hugies – Clean / Whole / Free of ALL which contaminates Body and Soul]
He was healed, YES... and His sin had also been forgiven—he could live free of guilt and shame!

THE QUESTION OF SIN: When JESUS later found the man, He admonished him, “Behold, you are made whole. *Sin no more, lest a worse thing come to you!*”

- This would indicate that the man’s condition was the result of some sin from his life.
 - This is not always the case, but it can be.
 - Obviously, something in the man’s early life had brought about the circumstances of his infirmity.
- Notice: Jesus did not say, “Lest God smite you again!” or “God might make you even worse!” or, “I’ll find you and you’ll wish you had never seen me!”
- God didn’t cause the problem in the first place—Sin Did!

Three Beautiful Things Here:

- 1) God did not make him this way... it was the results of sin
- 2) God wanted him whole, AND sent Jesus to find him so that he could be healed... and forgiven
- 3) JESUS healed the man BEFORE He admonished him.

THAT’S GRACE!

TO HONOR THE FATHER IS TO HONOR THE SON

Jesus didn’t do miracles just so He could teach a lesson. YET: *He did realize that what He did would raise questions and opposition from the Jewish Leaders.*

Because they could not believe what He said, they could not believe who He was... and vice versa.

Through the confusion of Philosophies, Religions, and empty speculations, the people to whom John was writing were confused and questioned everything AND this is where so much of our Culture is today.

The question, “Who IS Jesus” is best answered by Jesus, Himself. JESUS KNEW who He was...

JOHN 5:19-23 *So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.*

This is a subject which John references several times in his Gospel. John is highlighting a principle that is of great importance to his hearers... and to us.

Jesus, the man, had fully surrendered the display of His Deity to the Father. He didn’t use His “divine attributes” to relate with humanity. They could not see that He was God... to them He was “a man.”

BUT: Jesus also professed He was God. And what He said and did were the result of His union with God, His Father.

“The Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing...”

- *To perceive perfectly / discern the intent of something* – Jesus was not “physically” seeing the Father do these things but as He was with Him, Jesus could perceive the intent of His will

“For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.” –

- Whatever the Father purposed to accomplish, Jesus was yielded to fulfill
- It was the Father’s purpose to heal the man... Jesus carried-out “on Earth” the Father’s intent
- IF it was the Father’s intent to heal the man, HOW could THEY oppose His will...

²⁰ *For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel.*

- It is out of the Father’s love that Jesus was doing these things... NOT to glorify Himself, but to fulfill the Father’s desire
- THESE was a very “foreign” terms for the Jewish Leaders... Not only did they have little understanding of God as Father... BUT for someone to consider themselves as an “*object of His love*”... *Inconceivable! ... Bordering on Blasphemy ... Delusional...*
- AND to say that these things were partly intended to make them “marvel” ... to be outside of their understanding and ability to comprehend THAT was unacceptable... *“Why, WE are the Pharisees!”*

²¹ *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will.*

There are 2 aspects of “resurrection” here:

- The “*Father’s resurrection*” is the physical raising of the OT Saints at the 2nd Coming...
- The Son “*giving Life*” refers to the “Eternal Life” that Jesus gives to ALL who believe...
- “*Whom He will*” is to all who believe that He is the Son whom the Father has sent... and have believed in His name...

Vs 24A “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.

JOHN 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

²² *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.*

- The issue is NOT who has believed in the “Father” BUT who has believed in the “Son”
- Therefore, it is the “Son” who will judge as the one “*who has honored Him*”

Vs 24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- Notice: It is not in “*honoring the Father*” that the Son is honored... (*in a passive sense*)
- It is an ACTIVE choice to “*Honor the Son*” that proves that one has “*honored the Father*”
- To NOT “*honor the Son*” is to REJECT the Father’s purpose in sending the Son