

# JOHN

“<sup>1</sup> After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. <sup>3</sup> In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; <sup>4</sup> for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] <sup>5</sup> A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.”

# JOHN

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, “Do you wish to get well?” <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” <sup>9</sup> Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. <sup>10</sup> So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”

# JOHN

<sup>11</sup> But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.' " <sup>12</sup> They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'?" <sup>13</sup> But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. <sup>14</sup> Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." <sup>15</sup> The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup> For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

HERO

*OR*

VILLAIN?

HAVE YOU  
EVER?

DONE  
SOMETHING  
GOOD

YET YOUR DEEDS  
WERE MIS-  
UNDERSTOOD

INSTEAD OF  
BECOMING THE  
HERO

YOU BECOME  
THE VILLAIN

# JESUS

Instead of being  
**HAILED** as a **HERO**, He  
became **PERSECUTED**  
as a **VILLAIN**.

# AS WE GO THROUGH

we will see that wrong perceptions because of wrong beliefs can create a **CONFLICT** between man and God, ultimately causing the **condemnation** and **damnation** of man's soul.



The Jews had **MISUNDERSTOOD** the **SABBATH** and the **LORD** of the **SABBATH** Himself.



The **lesson** here is that it is only in a **PROPER UNDERSTANDING** of **God's word** that any **CONFLICT** could be resolved.



The ones whose **HEARTS ARE RIGHT** will **UNDERSTAND**, but the ones whose **HEARTS ARE STUBBORN AND HARDENED** will **NOT UNDERSTAND**.

*It is however important to note that it is the "fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom."*

*STARK*

*FAITH OF A*

*CONTRAST*

*SAMMAR*

*ROMAN*

*ITAN*

*ROYAL*

*WOMA*

*OFFICIAL*

**I** AN **INDICTMENT**  
**O** OF **THEIR** **SINFUL**  
**U** **UNBELIEF**  
**N**

1

The needy in Jerusalem and their hope for deliverance. *(verses 1-4)*

# WHAT WAS THE OCCASIO *(verses 1-9)* N FOR THE CONFLICT

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# WHAT WAS THE OCCASIO *(verses 1-9)* N FOR THE CONFLICT

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**The needy in Jerusalem and their hope for deliverance. (verses 1-4)**

Jesus went up to Jerusalem during a Jewish feast where there was a pool, which according to the Jews, was a place for **miraculous healing** for those who step in first, after an angel stirs up the water in it.

Because of its reputation for miracles, a **multitude of invalids** continually poured into the place **hoping to receive healing**.

# WHAT WAS THE OCCASIO N FOR THE CONFLICT

*(verses 1-9)*

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The needy in Jerusalem and their hope for deliverance. *(verses 1-4)*

2

The hopelessness and desperation of a sufferer. *(verses 5-7)*

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## SICK MAN

- sick for 38 years
- trying in vain to get into the pool first
- man's problem must have involved paralysis
- may have been camping in this spot for a long time already
- situation seemed hopeless and desperate
- it was impossible for him to be quick enough because of his disability

## JESUS

- WHO KNOWS our EVERY SITUATION
- who is so **willing** to alleviate us from all our afflictions and desperate situations.

This is what we **BELIEVERS** have experienced in our lives.

# PSALM

## 34:19

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
But the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

Even as we know this,  
there are **TWO WAYS**  
God delivers us:



**EXTERNALLY**

where God removes our  
afflictions literally or  
even physically



**INTERNALLY**

gives us **INNER  
STRENGTH** to go  
through the problem

# 2 TIMOTHY

## 4:17-18

<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

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The ANSWER: JESUS. *(verses 8-9)*

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The **ANSWER: JESUS.** *(verses 8-9)*

The sufferer gets **more** than he had hoped for as he gets a miraculous healing instead from Jesus Himself on Sabbath day. Jesus then commands him to pick up his pallet and walk.

The bed of the very poor. This tells us that Jesus was a **COMPASSIONATE** person and **DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE** as to whom He helps.

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3

The ANSWER: JESUS. *(verses 8-9)*

4

The cause of the OFFENSE: the TIMING. *(verses 9)*

JOHN

“9 ....Now it was the Sabbath on that day.”

N

## THE PROBLEM FROM THE

with Jesus’ healing and command to pick up the pallet was that it happened on a Sabbath. From Jesus’ standpoint, that was **NO PROBLEM** at all.

*But as we shall see in the next few verses, the JEWS saw it as a **MORAL** and **SPIRITUAL ISSUE**.*

WHAT  
WAS IT  
THAT  
*(verses 10-13)*  
OFFENDED  
THE

 LIVING WORD | HERO OR  
VILLAIN  
N

# JOHN

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# WHAT WAS IT THAT *(verses 10-13)* OFFENDED THE JEWSS?



LIVING WORD

HERO OR  
VILLAI  
N

1

The Jews **took offense** that the healed man was carrying his pallet, which according to their human tradition was a **violation of the Sabbath** because carrying one's pallet was considered work.

2

The man explains that it was the man (Jesus) who healed him who ordered him to carry his pallet, to which the Jews inquired as to who it is that ordered him to carry the pallet, **unmindful** of the stupendous miracle that was performed.

*In Chapter four, Jesus made a commentary of the Jews: <sup>48</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."*

# EPHESIANS

**4:18** “being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;”

ALTHOUGH THESE  
JEWS WERE

UNCONCERNED WITH  
HUMANITY  
THAT HE CARED

for this man.

The Jews cared MORE for  
RELIGIOUS than for  
COMPASSION AND  
OBEDIENCE.

The attention of the rulers was  
consequently centered **not on the relief  
of the man** nor on the **power of Jesus**,  
but on *the relation of this act to the  
Mosaic law.*

# JAMES 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

# PROB LEM

They have made their **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS** and **THEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS** their god, such that even when **TRUTH** is presented succinctly, they still will **not believe.**

*JESUS  
WILL  
NOT BE FOUND  
BY THOSE  
WHO ARE  
NOT  
SEEKING*

# HOSEA 5:6

“They will go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them.”

THE TRUTH IS WHAT  
TRULY SETS US FREE.

WRONG BELIEFS

WRONG  
CONCLUSIONS

WRONG  
RESPONSES

WRONG  
DECISIONS

*JESUS will reveal  
Himself to those  
whose ~~HEARTS~~ ~~SEE~~  
Himself from those  
who ~~HARDEN~~ their  
hearts like these Jews  
who saw Jesus as a  
~~VILLAIN~~ instead of a  
~~HERO~~*

HE

RO

*OR*

VILLA

IN?