

Have you ever faced a struggle that seemed insurmountable?

Have you ever felt like success was impossible?

Have you ever asked God for a miracle?

Do you believe God still performs miracles?

I NEED A

MIRACLES



MIRACLES OF JESUS

Permanent Disabilities Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Mute Man	9:32-34			
Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman's Spine			13:10-17	
Jesus Heals a Lame Man at Bethesda pool				5:1-15
Jesus Heals a Paralytic Man	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14-23	
Jesus Casts Out Demons and Heals Many Sick at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind				9:1-41
Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
Jesus Heals Two More Blind Men	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Jesus Heals Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
Illnesses / Injuries Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Woman with Issue of Blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear			22:50-51	
Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Jesus Heals an Official's Son Remotely				4:46-54
Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		

Evil Spirits Removed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Delivers a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man		1:21-28	4:31-37	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man and Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
The Dead Raised to Life	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Raises a Widow's Son in Nain			7:11-17	
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead				11:1-45
Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter to Life	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
Other Miracles	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Temple Tax Placed in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Jesus Turns Water into Wine				2:1-11
First Miraculous Catch of Fish			5:1-11	
Second Miraculous Catch of Fish				21:1-14
Jesus Feeds 5000 with 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
Jesus Feeds 4000 with 7 Loaves & few Fish	15:32-39	8:1-13		
Jesus Causes a Fig Tree to Wither	21:18-22	11:12-14		
Jesus Calms a Storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	

Categories of Miracles

Miracles over nature

- The parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)
- Jonah and the big fish (Jonah 1:17)
- The virgin birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18–25)
- Daniel's survival in the den of lions (Daniel 6:21–22)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's preservation in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:25)
- Jesus' walking on water (Matthew 14:25–27)
- Jesus' calming of the storm (Matthew 8:23–27)

Miracles of healing

- Jesus' healing of the nobleman's son (John 4:46–47), a leper (Mark 1:40–45), a paralytic (Matthew 9:1–8), and a woman with an issue of blood (Luke 8:43–48)

Miracles over demonic forces

- Jesus' casting out of many unclean spirits (Mark 1:23–28; Matthew 8:28–34)

Categories of Miracles

Miracles of provision

- God's provision of manna (Exodus 16:4)
- Jesus' turning of water into wine (John 2:7–9)
- Jesus' feeding of the multitudes (Matthew 14:19–20; 15:36–37)

Miracles of resurrection

- Elijah's raising of the son of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17–24)
- Elisha's raising the Shunamite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18–37)
- Jesus' raising of the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11–18), Jairus's daughter (Luke 8:52–56), and Lazarus (John 11)
- Peter's raising of Tabitha (Acts 9:36–43)
- Paul's raising of Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12)
- Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:1–7)

John 5

Healing is found in the Savior

While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him [Jesus]; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was **healing** them. Luke 4:40

After these things there was a **feast of the Jews** [Judeans], and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew [Aramaic] Bethesda, having five porticoes [covered walkways].

John 5:1-2

* What feast? Though not stated, most likely Purim.

Jesus Celebrated Purim in John 5

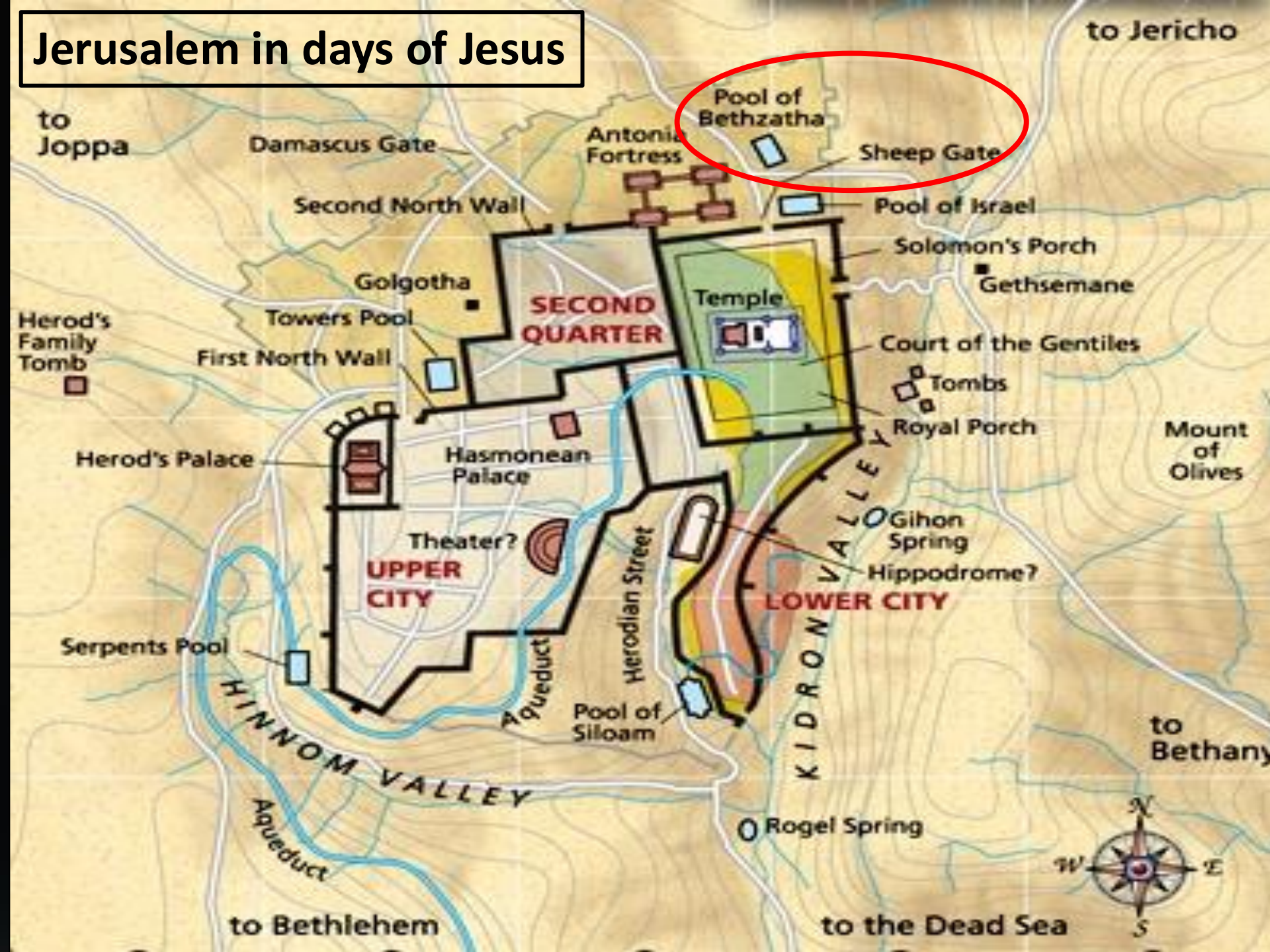
Scholars have debated whether the feast was Passover, Purim, Sukkot or even Pentecost. Some have objected to Purim because it is a "minor" feast and not one of the three "major" pilgrimage festivals (Deuteronomy 16:16). That argument is irrelevant because Jesus also celebrated another "minor" holiday, Hanukkah (John 10:22). Chronologically, the only feast that makes sense is Purim in AD 28. The feast of John 5 fell on a Sabbath (John 5:9). The only feast day to fall on a Sabbath between AD 25 and AD 35 was Purim of AD 28.

After these things there was a feast of the Jews [Judeans], and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem **by the sheep gate a pool**, which is called in Hebrew [Aramaic] Bethesda, having five porticoes [covered walkways]. John 5:1-2

Βηθεσδά Bethesda — In Aramaic, it means “house of grace” or “house of mercy,” a reservoir with five porches, close to the sheep-gate or market.

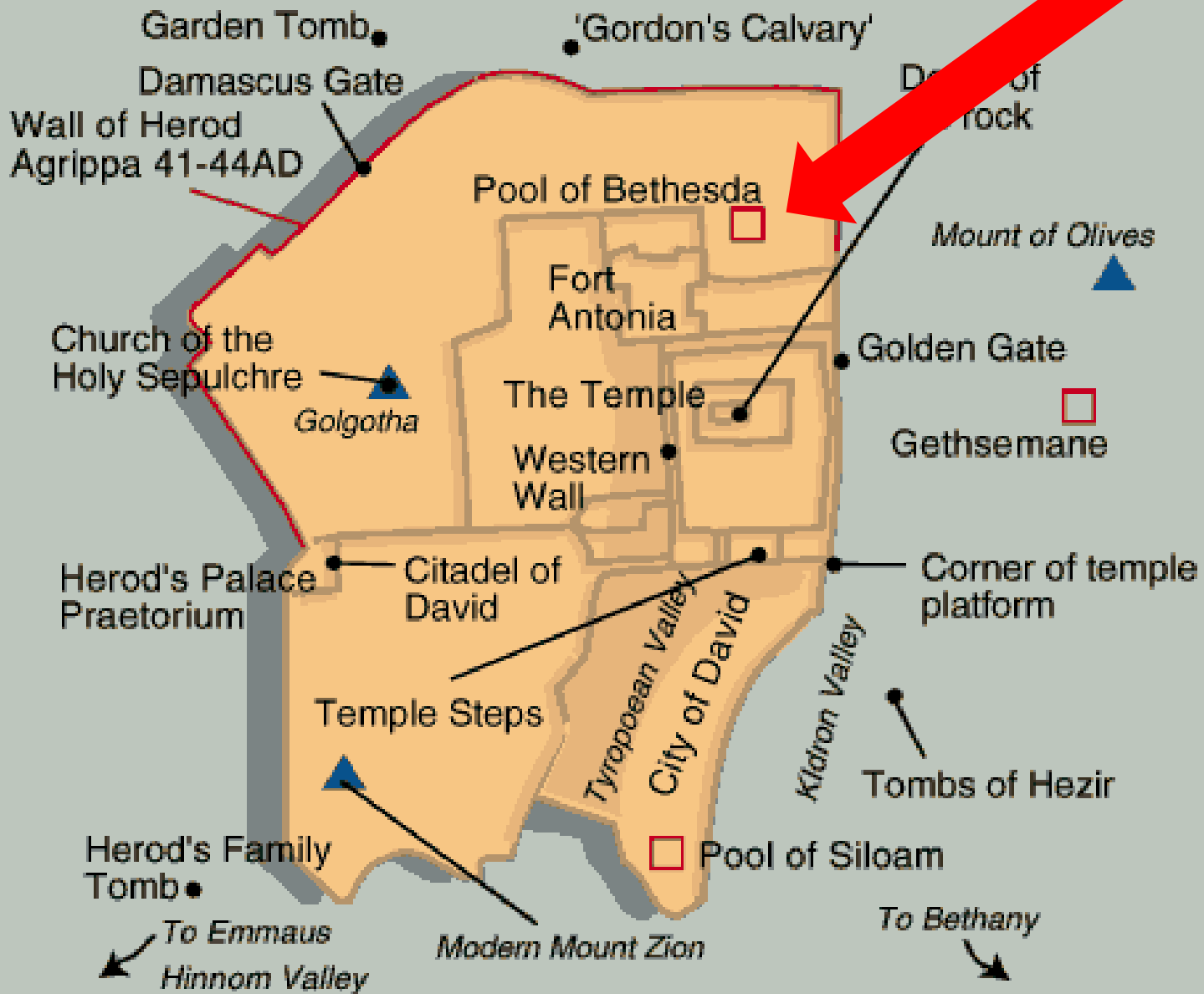
Source: Easton's Bible Dictionary

Jerusalem in days of Jesus



It was called the Sheep Gate because it led out to the sheep markets, where lambs were sold for sacrifice in the Temple (see John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7), and into the Sheep pool where sheep were washed for sacrificing (later it became the Pool of Bethesda). This gate also led to Golgotha, the path Jesus took to the crucifixion. It has been noted that whenever Jesus entered into the city it was through the Sheep gate. The only time this was different was when Christ entered into the city from the Mount of Olives at His triumphal entry. If Jesus came into the city through the sheep gate it was significant. He was saying, behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The sheep gate led into the temple compound and the brazen altar.

New Testament Jerusalem



Before this pool became a place of healing, it was simply a water reservoir filled with collected rainwater used for cleaning purposes connected with the Temple.

Then the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rab-saris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah with a large army to Jerusalem. So they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they went up, they came and stood by the conduit of the **upper pool**, which is on the highway of the fuller's field. 2 Kings 18:17



Sheep Gate

also called
Lion's Gate and
Saint Stephen's Gate

שער האריות Sha'ar Ha-Arayôt = Gate of the Lions



Sheep's
Gate

circa 1870

Sheep's Gate circa 1920



שַׁעַר הָאֲרִיּוֹת Sha'ar Ha-Arayôt = Gate of the Lions



Sheep's Gate
today

Completed in
1538–1539
under
Ottoman
Sultan
Suleiman the
Magnificent





North Temple Wall

Antonia

Sheep Gate

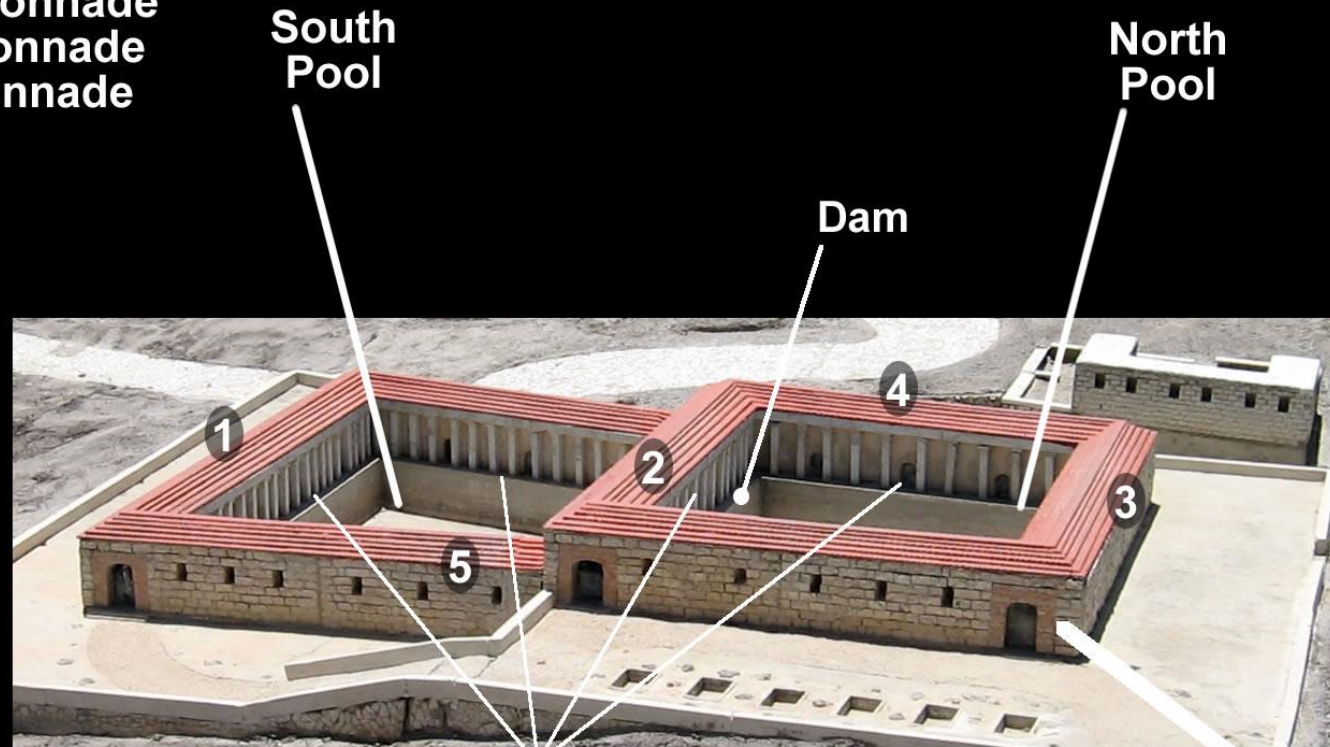
Pool of Bethesda



Sheep Gate

Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the **Sheep Gate**; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel. Nehemiah 3:1

- Five Colonnades -**
1 - South Colonnade
2 - Middle Colonnade on Dam
3 - North Colonnade
4 - West Colonnade
5 - East Colonnade



South

North

Colonnades -
Roof covered walkways
around edges of pools

*"Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades."
- John 5:2*

**Pools of
Bethesda**
30-70 AD



South Pool

North Pool

Basilica Columns

Crusader Chapel

Byzantine Basilica

East of Pool of Bethesda

Pool of Bethesda today



Pool of Bethesda today



In these [walkways] lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; 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.] John 5:3-4

*Those two pools in Jerusalem were fed, not only by a reservoir, but also occasionally by artesian wells. When that water came in, it had special characteristics, something like the hot springs that people go to for therapeutic reasons today. When those wells kicked in, the water was stirred, and people would rush to take advantage of the curative powers that were thought to be in the water. - <https://learn.ligonier.org/sermons/pool-bethesda>

A man was there who had been ill
for thirty-eight years. John 5:5

*How long is 38 years?

Who remembers 1988?

In 1988, Ronald Reagan was the 40th U.S. president, and George H. W. Bush was the nation's vice president.

The average retail price for a gallon of gas was \$1.08.

The federal minimum wage was \$3.35 per hour, the median household income was \$27,225, and the average cost of a new home was \$138,300.

A Buick Skylark cost \$11,306, and a Nissan Sentra was \$7,866.

On April 23, President Reagan signed a bill that banned smoking on all domestic flights that had a duration of two hours or less.

On August 1, Microsoft released Microsoft Office, a software suite “that is widely used in business and educational environments to create, view, and edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.”

On October 9, the musical *The Phantom of the Opera* opened on Broadway.

On November 8, Vice President George H. W. Bush became the 41st U.S. president by defeating Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis—the Democratic candidate.

The first Walmart Supercenter opened in Wheeler, Oklahoma.

Austrian physicist Christian Andreas Doppler invented Doppler radar.

In 1988, sales of CDs surpassed sales of vinyl records for the first time, Microsoft sold its one-millionth mouse, and there were about 45 million PCs in use in the United States.

James A. Michener's *Alaska* was a best-selling book, *The Cosby Show* (NBC) was a top-rated TV show, and *Rain Man* was a popular film.

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?” John 5:6

*Do you ever get comfortable in the painful but familiar place?

Jesus is simply aware of the fact that if this man is made whole after thirty-eight years of paralysis, this could be a radical threat to the well-being of his existence. This man has learned to depend on others to tend to his matters because he has been helpless for thirty-eight years. If, all of a sudden, Jesus makes him whole, that changes everything. No more handouts. No more assistance. He will have to be productive. He is going to have to function in a society in which he has been unable to be productive for thirty-eight years. On that point, I think we do learn that some folks do not want to get better, because being better represents a threat they cannot handle. – R.C. Sproul

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



Christ healing the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda

by
Bartolomé Esteban
Murillo

1667-1670

“Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.”

Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.

John 5:8-9a

*In the Messianic era... “**Then the lame will leap like a deer**, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.” Isaiah 35:6

How many times had the man prayed for healing?

38 years X 365 days = 13,870 days

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

- C.S. Lewis

Now it was the Sabbath on that day. 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 5:9b-10

Where was this healing? Pool of Bethesda
Bethesda means “House of Grace”

- *Messiah Jesus showed grace to the man in pain
- *Religious people didn't show grace to the man in pain

Where in the Word of God does it say that it is not lawful for a person who was healed of paralysis to carry his bed? You know the answer to that question: nowhere. But the rabbis, in their historical interpretation of the law, enumerated thirty-nine specific types of work in which it was illegal to engage on the Sabbath day. The thirty-ninth rule of Sabbath observance—the very last one on the list—prohibited carrying something like this from one place to another. – R.C. Sproul

- <https://learn.ligonier.org/sermons/pool-bethesda>

‘Thus says the Lord, “Take heed for yourselves, and do not carry any load on the sabbath day or bring anything in through the gates of Jerusalem. You shall not bring a load out of your houses on the sabbath day nor do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers.” Jeremiah 17:21-22

Jesus' miracle healings performed on the Sabbath

- Drives out an evil spirit (Mark 1:21-28)
- Heals Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31, Matthew 8:14-15, Luke 4:38-39)
- Healing of a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1-6, Matthew 12:9-14, Luke 6:6-11)
- **Invalid's healing by the pool (John 5:1-18)**
- Cure of a blind man (John 9:1-16)
- Curing a woman crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)
- Healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)

But he [the formerly paralyzed man] answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk.’ ” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk’?” 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. John 5:11-13

Are you asking Jesus to do a miracle today?

- Who took the initiative in this conversation?
- Who recognized and cared about the pain of this man?
- Who spoke with the power of the Creator God?
- Who demonstrated miracle healing power while the hurting man had no faith?

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.”

The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the [unbelieving] Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, “My Father is working [on Shabbat] until now, and I Myself am working [on Shabbat].”

John 5:14-17

For this reason therefore the [unbelieving] Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him [Jesus], because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. John 5:18

- Yeshua's words produced the first reported effort to kill Him. If He had been blaspheming God, as the Judeans thought, it would have been proper to be intent on killing Him, since "Anyone who blasphemes the name of Adonai shall surely be put to death" (Leviticus 24:16). – Jewish New Testament Commentary

Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.”

John 5:19-20

- Last week we read the story where Jesus turned water into wine.
- That miracle was not a “necessity,” but rather a “luxury.” Stop and consider this fact for a moment. That miracle was not like some of the other miracles Jesus performed, where an individual has suffered for years, or a child’s life hangs in the balance. That was not an emergency situation which demands immediate and dramatic action on our Lord’s part.
- There is a lesson to be learned from this miracle. *God is concerned with our “non-critical” problems.*
- He is a compassionate and merciful Father, who cares about His children. God is never annoyed when we come to Him with our small problems.

Praying for Miracles at First Melissa

- Salvations of family members and friends
- Healing of marriages and broken relationships
- Healing of illness and sickness
- Creating and deepening connections among the Body of Christ
- Raising up the next generation of faithful followers of Jesus
- Church construction loan paid off
- Expansion of our church property
- Upgrades to our existing church facilities and campus
- Construction of new church facilities
- Expansion of ministry opportunities

Steps in a “Was Lame But Now I Walk” Miracle

- Recognize that self-righteous religious people offer no grace
- Be thankful that Jesus the Messiah offers grace to all
- Learn to celebrate the blessings of God in the lives of others
- Understand that God’s ability to heal is not dependent on the amount of our faith
- Be grateful that in our relationship with God, Jesus always takes the initiative
- Choose the spiritually right path, not the logistically simple path
- Never let man-made religious regulations replace the heart of God’s Word
- Understand that spiritual separation from God for eternity is greater than any physical pain or sickness