



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. **Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.**

Background Matters

Jesus picked a certain invalid on a Sabbath Day (v. 9) at a feast time, a man who had been afflicted **for 38 years**. John did not say what kind of physical problem he had or if he was **an invalid** from birth. In any case his condition was hopeless. 5:6. The word **learned** does not mean that **Jesus** received facts from others. It means that He perceived the situation by His knowledge (the Gr. is *gnous*, "knowing"; cf. 1:48; 2:24-25; 4:18). Jesus' seemingly strange question, **Do you want to get well?** was designed to focus the man's attention on Him, to stimulate his will, and to raise his hopes. In the spiritual realm man's great problem is that either he does not recognize he is sick (cf. Isa. 1:5-6; Luke 5:31) or he does not want to be cured. People are often happy, for a while at least, in their sins.

5:7. The man replied that he lacked not the desire but the means to be healed. Without strength and without friends, he could not be helped **when the pool water was stirred**. He had tried but without success.



5:8. **Jesus** then **said ... Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.** His command carried with it the required enablement. As with dead Lazarus (11:43), Jesus' word accomplished His will. This illustrates conversion. When people obey His command to believe, God works in and through His Word.

5:9-10. God's supernatural power was evident in the man's instantaneous cure. **He picked up his mat and walked.** Muscles long atrophied were completely restored. Isaiah prophesied that in the days of the Messiah the lame would "leap like a deer" (Isa. 35:1-7). Here in Jerusalem was a public sign that the Messiah had come.

The Sabbath was a central issue in the conflicts between Jesus and His opponents (cf. Mark 2:23; 3:4). The Mosaic Law required that work cease on the seventh day. Additional laws were added by later Jewish religious authorities, which became very complicated and burdensome. These human traditions often obscured the divine intention in God's Law. "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27) so that he could have rest and a time for worship and joy. The Jews' rigid tradition (not the Old Testament) taught that if anyone carried anything from a public place to a private place on the Sabbath intentionally, he deserved death by stoning. In this case the man who was healed was in danger of losing his life.

5:11. The healed man realized this difficulty and tried to evade any responsibility for violating tradition by saying he was just following orders.

5:12-13. The authorities were naturally interested in the identity of **this fellow who told** the invalid to violate their rules. But **the man ... had no** knowledge of Jesus. This seems to be a case in which healing was done in the absence of faith. The invalid was chosen by **Jesus** as an act of grace because of his need and also to display God's glory in him. Jesus then **had slipped away into the crowd** (cf. 8:59; 10:39; 12:35), so momentarily He was unknown.

5:14-15. **Jesus** later **found** the healed man in **the temple** area. This implied that Jesus sought him out in order to speak to him. The ex-paralytic seemed to have no gratitude to Jesus: his conduct put him in a bad light. Jesus' warning (**Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you**) does not mean that his paralysis was caused by any specific sin (cf. 9:3), though all disease and death come ultimately from sin. The warning was that his tragic life of 38 years as an invalid was no comparison to the doom of hell. Jesus is interested not merely in healing a person's body. Far more important is the healing of his soul from sin.

2. the discourse (5:16-47).

5:16. **Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath.** In addition to the case of the invalid's healing (5:1-15), John later recorded the cure of a blind man on the Sabbath (chap. 9). The grain-picking (Mark 2:23-28), the healing of a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1-5), curing a woman who had been crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17), and healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)—all these took place on the Sabbath. As seen in these passages, Jesus' theology or philosophy of the Sabbath differed from that of His opponents. His opponents in the controversy were progressively humiliated while the crowds favored Him. The opponents' response was to persecute Jesus by opposing Him and trying to kill Him (John 5:16, 18; 7:19, 25).¹

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

A man had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and recognized that he had been in that condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" Many people acknowledge the struggles in their lives but hesitate to answer the question: Do you truly want to be healed?

¹ Edwin A. Blum, "John," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 289-290.



Recovering from mental, spiritual, or emotional challenges often requires a deep and personal surrender to a source of guidance or strength that one may not have previously considered. This act of letting go and opening oneself up to new possibilities can lead to a profound transformation. Without embracing and surrendering, individuals may find themselves trapped in a cycle of the same struggles year after year, unable to break free from the patterns that hold them back. Embracing this journey can pave the way for healing and renewal. This man could not rely on the sick next to him or others who could help his associates, but Jesus had the cure for his illness.

God knows our past and our present state. Will you hear Him calling out to you through this study this week?

Study Guide 14

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

Do You Understand The Question?

Healing at the pool

John 5:1–15

Topics:

Attitude, Church, Depend, Healing, Jesus Christ, Law, Legalism, Miracles, New Life, Religion, Sin, Trust

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *Why might someone prefer rules and regulations to freedom?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. For what event did Jesus go to Jerusalem? (5:1)



3. Who came to the pool near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem? (5:2–3)

4. How long had the one invalid man been at the pool? (5:5)

5. *What did Jesus ask the invalid man? (5:6)

6. How did the invalid man respond to Jesus' question? (5:7)

7. What did Jesus command the invalid man to do? (5:8)

8. What happened to the invalid man after Jesus spoke to him? (5:9)

9. On what day of the week did this miracle take place? (5:9)

Push on Wednesday, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

10. *What did the Jews say to the healed man? Why? (5:10)

11. How did the healed man respond to the Jews' question? (5:11)



12. What did the Jews ask the healed man? (5:12)

13. Why didn't the man know who healed him? (5:13)

14. *What did Jesus tell the man he had healed on their second encounter? (5:14)

15. What did the healed man do after he spoke with Jesus a second time? (5:15)

16. In what way do you think life is unfair?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. When have you felt as if life has dealt you a bad hand?

18. When have you felt that God was waiting too long to do something you'd trusted Him to do?

19. When do we tend to get impatient with God's timing in our lives?

20. On what in life, other than God, do we sometimes depend?



21. Why do we attempt to take matters into our own hands, rather than trust God to work them out?

22. *When has someone tried to squelch your freedom in Christ with religious rules or regulations?

23. *Why do some people care more about keeping certain “religious” rules than they do about developing a meaningful relationship with Jesus?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

24. What is something you need to trust God with today?

25. Who is someone you can encourage to enjoy his or her relationship with Christ this week?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John **2026**

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