

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #193

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 7: CHAPTER 5

1. Healing the Impotent Man at the Pool of Bethesda
2. Jesus claims to be equal with the Father
3. The two resurrections
4. The witnesses to the Divinity of Jesus

PART ONE

1. After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
2. Now there is at Jerusalem, by the sheep gate, 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, lame, paralyzed, 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 well of whatever disease he had.
5. And a certain man was there, who had an infirmity thirty and eight years.
6. When Jesus saw him, lying there, and knew that he had been thus now for a long time, He saith unto him, *“Wilt thou be made well?”*
7. The impotent man answered Him, *“Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.”*
8. Jesus saith unto him, *“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”*
9. And immediately the man was made well and took up his bed and walked; and the same day was the Sabbath.
10. The Jews, therefore, said unto him that was cured, *“It is the Sabbath day; it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.”*
11. He answered them, *“He that made me well, the same said unto me, ‘Take up thy bed and walk.’”*
12. Then asked they him, *“What man is that who said unto thee, ‘Take up thy bed and walk?’”*
13. And he that was healed knew not who it was; for Jesus had moved away, a multitude being in that place.

14. Afterwards Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, *“Behold, thou art made well; sin no more, lest a worst thing come unto thee.”*

15. The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16. And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day.

1-16

This event at Jerusalem in the early first century is a historical, factual event that has great application for the Body of Christ today. First, the first two verses tell us that what is being symbolized or typed here is the CHURCH. There is the sheep gate-WE ARE THE SHEEP and JESUS IS THE GATE through which we go into the New Jerusalem. The name *Bathesda* means place of provision. The church is our spiritual provision. *Jerusalem* means place of peace or double peace or peace beyond our understanding or the place of dwelling with God. It symbolizes the place of the inner court Christians. (To go into the Holy of Holies, we must ascend to Mount Zion.) The five porches or foundation, on which these Jews were lying, I believe, represents the first five books of the Bible or Pentateuch, written by Moses, the books of law. This for the Jews was the Torah. For us today, it represents religion and tradition.

These people who were waiting type the present day church which is full of impotent, spiritually blind, spiritually lame people not going anywhere, paralyzed people not moving in the Spirit, but nevertheless wanting and waiting for revival or a move of God.

Why did Jesus ask the question, “Wilt thou be made whole?” Perhaps Jesus asked this because the man had been there 30 years and had lost hope. He did not think there was anyone who could or would help him get well. He had no one to take him to where revival was stirring. Even in places of genuine revival, many get so focused on some spiritual experience or manifestation that they do not even recognize Jesus when He does come. They look for His hand and not His face.

I believe that the Lord is trying to tell us that wherever we are, He is. He is saying to us, “Take up your bed and walk.” There is an old song that summarizes this theme: *Has fear and doubt come against your mind? Has your faith been sorely tried? Lift up your eyes, here cometh your help! It is Jesus, for you He has died. If by faith you reach out to Him, He will meet your every need. He will respond to the cry of your heart. He will touch you and set you free! Rise and be healed in the name of Jesus. Let faith arise in your soul! Rise and be healed in the name of Jesus. He will make you every wit whole!*

This man rose up and was healed. Immediately the Pharisaical deacon board tried to discredit this miracle. Instead of rejoicing in what Jesus had done in healing a man who had been sick for 38 years, they denounced the man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath and therefore sought to slay Jesus. So, be careful to judge something by its fruit and by the Word and not by our religion and tradition!

PART TWO

17. But Jesus answered them, *“My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”*
18. Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the Sabbath but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
19. Then answered Jesus and said unto them, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do; for whatever things He doeth, these also doeth the Son in the same manner.*
20. *For the Father loveth the Son and showeth Him all things that He Himself doeth; and He will show Him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*
21. *For as the Father raiseth up the dead and giveth them life, even as the Son has given life to whom He will.*
22. *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son;*
23. *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent Him.’*

17-23

What Jesus is saying here is that God “works” on the Sabbath to keep the universe going and watching over and caring for us. We are not just to cease from physical and mental labors but are to remember to do good on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:12b-... **Wherefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath days.**) Jesus Himself healed on the Sabbath, provided food on the Sabbath, and performed acts of mercy and love. Paul went even further about the Sabbath when he wrote in Romans 14 and Colossians 2:16 indicating that we should respect every day as the Lord’s Day and not judge people for picking one day over our own Sabbath.

The Jews wanted to kill Jesus for working on the Sabbath, i.e. healing someone. Here you see the Jews wanting to kill Him also because He claimed God was His Father. All Jews considered God their Father, but

Jesus was saying to them that God was His personal Father, making Him equal, in a sense, to God.

Jesus was fully God and equal to both the Father and Spirit. He emptied Himself (Philippians 2:5-11), however, to take on a fleshly body so that He could give His life to purchase man, freeing those who would accept His offer, from the control and dominion of Satan and granting eternal life in paradise with Jesus. He was limited in knowledge and wisdom and power during the days of His flesh (Isaiah 11:2, 50:4, Luke 2:40 & 52, Matthew 11:25-27, 24:36, Acts 1:6-8, Revelation 1:1) This did not mean that He was not fully God, and He was not independent of the Trinity but still a complete partner.

PART THREE

24. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My words and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, [will not come under condemnation] but is passed from death unto life.*
25. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that live shall live.*
26. *For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself.*
27. *And hath given Him authority to exercise judgments; also because He is the Son of man.*
28. *Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice.*
29. *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

24-29

Jesus speaks of the spiritual dead here. Verses 28-29 are an unfulfilled prophecy. Jesus is referring here to the physical body. Only the physical body dies at physical death and only the body goes into the grave. The soul does not sleep, as some teach. The righteous are in a conscious state in heaven (Ephesians 4:8-10, Philippians 1:21-24, 2nd Corinthians 5:8, Revelation 6:9-11, Hebrews 12:22-23). The lost are in a conscious state in Hell. Jesus is the ONLY way.

Judgments of God from *The Christian Life New Testament*

1. **The judgment of the believer's sin:** John 5:24 (Above) (This is for those who are saved and whose sins have been covered by the blood of Christ. Therefore, there is no condemnation in this judgment.)

2. **The judgment of the believer's self:** 1st Corinthians 11:31-32 *For, if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
3. **The judgment of the believer's works:** 2nd Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (This judgment is for those who have been saved and thus their sins forgiven. The result of this judgment is whether a person will receive or be denied rewards and occurs when Jesus comes back for His church.)*
4. **The judgment of the nations:** Matthew 25:31-46 *When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all the nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, **"Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and ye gave Me food; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in. Naked, and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me."** Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee hungry and fed Thee; or thirsty and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger and took Thee in; or naked and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick or in prison or came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and saw unto them, **"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."** Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, **"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and ye gave Me no food; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick and in prison, and ye visited Me not."** Then shall they also answer Him, saying, "Lord, when saw we thee hungry or athirst or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister unto Thee?" Then shall he answer them saying, **"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me."** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.*

5. **The judgment of the wicked:** Revelation 20:11-15 *And I saw a great white throne and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hades were cast in to the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

PART FOUR

30. *“I can of mine own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I seek not Mine own will, but that will of the Father who hath sent Me.*
31. *If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.*
32. *There is another that beareth witness of me, and I know that the witness which He witnesseth of Me is true.*
33. *Ye sent unto John, and he bore witness unto the truth.*
34. *But I receive no testimony from man; but these things I say, that ye might be saved.*
35. *He was a burning and a shining light, and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.*
36. *But I have greater witness than that of John; for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me.*
37. *And the Father Himself, who hath sent me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.*
38. *And ye have not His word abiding in you; for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not.*
39. *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me.*
40. *And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life.*
41. *I receive not honor from men.*
42. *But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.*
43. *I am come in the Father’s name, and ye receive Me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*
44. *How can ye believe, who receive honor one of another and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?*

45. *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is one that accused you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.*
46. *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me.*
47. *But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

30-47

The Jews required two to three witnesses for a thing to be established. (*But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one of two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.* Matthew 18:16) Here Jesus gives the witnesses who confirm He is who He said He was: the Witness of John the Baptist, the Witness of His own works and miracles, the Witness of God the Father, the Witness of the Scriptures which all the Pharisees should know.

WHEN GOD RAN Benny Hester

Almighty God, the great I Am, Immovable Rock, Omnipotent powerful,
Awesome Lord, Victorious Warrior, Commanding King of Kings,
Mighty Conqueror

And the only time, The only time I ever saw Him run
Was when He ran to me.

He took me in His arms, Held my head to His chest
Said, "My son's come home again!"

Lifted my face, Wiped the tears from my eyes,
With forgiveness in His voice

He said, "Son, do you know I still love you?"

He caught me by surprise
When God ran.

The day I left home I knew I'd broken His heart.

I wondered then if things could ever be the same.

Then one night I remembered His love for me

And down that dusty road ahead I could see.

It's the only time, the only time I ever saw Him run.

And then He ran to me.

He took me in His arms, held my head to his chest,

Said, "My son's come home again!"

Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes,

With forgiveness in His voice,

He said, "Son, do you know I still love you?"
He caught me by surprise, and He brought me to my knees
When God ran.
I saw Him run to me. I was so ashamed, all alone and far away,
But now I know He's been waiting for this day.
I saw Him run to me. He took me in His arm, held my head to His chest,
Said, "My son's come home again!"
Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes
With forgiveness in His voice, I felt His love for me again.
He ran to me. He took me in His arms, held my head to His chest
Said, "My son's come home again!"
Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes.
With forgiveness in His voice, He said, "Son!" He called me, "Son!"
He said, "Son, do you know I still love you?"
He ran to me-when God ran-I saw Him run to me
And now I ran to Him
When God ran.