

WORD

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." **JOHN 5:17**

(Read also **JOHN 5:1-16.**)

Jesus' third sign proving that He is the Son of God involved healing an *invalid* man on the Sabbath. The man had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years, and then had an encounter with Jesus. What can we glean from the healing at the pool on the Sabbath? Following are three things Jesus did that leads us to respond to Him.

1 Jesus asks so we can respond.

⁶When 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?" ⁷The 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 5:6,7

The paralyzed man believed that he would be healed by being immersed in the pool of Bethesda. He failed to see that Jesus, his Healer, was right in front of him, because he was caught up in the religious traditions of his time. We must learn how to recognize who Jesus is, and respond when He opens an invitation to us. What wrong beliefs or mindsets did you have, prior to a relationship with Jesus? How did these change as you grew in your faith?

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2 Jesus heals so we can respond.

⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. **JOHN 5:8,9**

Without him asking, Jesus healed the paralyzed man, and this happened at once. The man's healing was a chance for him to come and follow Jesus, yet he did not. Often, because we focus on our own hardships, we forget that Jesus can and is more than able to help us—and this is the perfect opportunity to respond to what He is doing in our lives. What does the Bible instruct us to do in James 4:8? What does God do, in turn?

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3 Jesus warns so we can respond.

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." **JOHN 5:14**

The paralyzed man had a second encounter with Jesus—this time, Jesus gave a strong command to no longer continue in sin, so *nothing worse* would happen to him. Whenever we are confronted with the truth, the right way to respond is to go to God and repent. What is repentance? How do we know that we have truly repented? (Matthew 3:8)

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