

SEVEN SIGNS
#4: Lord of Health
May 7-9, 2006

¹Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ^{3[4]}Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” ⁷“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” ⁸Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” ¹¹But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” ¹²So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” ¹³The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. ¹⁴Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

John 5:1-17 TNIV

Introduction: The third sign that Jesus is Lord in John’s Book of Signs comes fast on the heels of the second, at least in John’s recounting. The healing of the invalid man is the most public of Jesus’ miracles to this point, and yet still offered only to those with eyes to see and ears to hear that Jesus is the Lord of health, restoring people to God’s glorious creation ideal.

I. Timing is Everything

- A. Once again, Jesus had chosen a Jewish festival as the time to reveal his identity.

- B. The invalid man had been stricken for thirty-eight years.
- C. The invalid man had long waited for the right moment to be healed.
- D. The healing Jesus offered was immediate.
- E. Jesus healed the invalid man on the Sabbath.
- F. Only later did Jesus approach the man at the temple and explain the implications of the healing.
- G. God is always working!

II. Location, Location, Location

- A. Once again, Jesus had chosen Jerusalem as the place to reveal his identity.
- B. The invalid man was at the healing pool of Bethesda day after day, and he was there when Jesus arrived.
- C. The invalid man needed to be in the pool when it stirred to be healed (or so the legend said), but never was.
- D. After he was healed, the formerly invalid man—who would have been prevented from the temple—went to the temple.
- E. After he healed the invalid, Jesus went to the temple, too.

III. Q and A

- A. Jesus asked the invalid man a seemingly silly question, “Do you want to be healed?”
- B. The invalid man did not really answer Jesus’ question, but offered an excuse for his continued sickness.
- C. Jesus responded with a simple command, “Walk!”
- D. The Jewish officials asked the man why he carried his mat on the Sabbath.
- E. The man explained that he had been commanded to walk.
- F. Jesus told him that his healing was physical and spiritual.
- G. The man told the officials, who persecuted Jesus.
- H. Jesus responded, “My father is always working.”

IV. Miracles Happen

- A. Whenever we need a friend, Jesus is always there.
- B. Jesus offers healing, but only to those who truly desire it.
- C. The healing Jesus provides is primarily spiritual, restoring us to God’s creation ideal and calling us to repentance.
- D. Jesus gives access to those who can’t get it.
- E. Not everyone sees the signs Jesus offers.
- F. God is always at work around us, and we are invited to join Him in what He is doing.

Conclusion: The signs of Jesus’ Lordship are only visible to the eyes and ears of faith, but they clearly show us that Jesus is the Lord of health. For those truly desiring healing, it is available through Jesus Christ alone. God is always at work restoring His creation, but we must choose to join Him in what He is doing.