

**Men's Sunday Night Live**  
**Lesson 5 - John 5:1-47**  
**Finding Identity and Purpose**  
**“Opposition Begins”**

Like several other chapters in John, we have here a message based on a miracle. This sign completes the three miracles that show how a person is saved. The first (water to wine) shows that salvation is through the Word of God. The second (healing the nobleman's son) shows that salvation is by faith. This third miracle demonstrates that salvation is by grace. This man was in a miserable condition. If he could get into the water when the angel came, he could be healed; but lacked the power to get there. How like the sinner today: if he could keep God's perfect law, he could be saved, but he is unable to do so.

Here we see the grace of God at work. This man was no more deserving than the others, but God chose him. This is a beautiful picture of salvation, and how it ought to humble us to know that we are chosen “in Him” and not because of our own doing but because of His grace. Healing this man on the Sabbath was contrary to Jewish tradition, so the Jews persecuted Christ as a law-breaker.

There is a spiritual resurrection and takes place when sinners hear the Word and believe. The man Christ healed was really a living dead man. When he heard the Word and believed, he was given new life in his body. Christ has life in Himself, for Christ is “the Life” and can give life to others.

The Old Testament Scriptures are the Father's witness to His Son. The Jews searched the Scriptures, thinking that their studies would save them, but they read with eyes that were spiritually blind. Moses wrote of Christ and would accuse them at the judgment. They refused the Word, they would not come to Him, they had no love for God, they would not receive Him, they sought honor from men and not from God; and they would not listen to His Word. No wonder they could not believe and be saved!

**Read John 5:1-15 and answer the following questions**

1. Where was Jesus before He went to Jerusalem? What was going on at this time in the city?

2. Why do you think Jesus asked the sick man if he wanted to be healed? What would you think and say if Jesus asked you, "Do you want to get well?"

3. Why do you think the sick man doesn't answer Jesus question? What does his reply in 5:7 tell you about his situation?

4. Can you think of any areas of your life where you are like this sick man?

5. What lessons can be learned from 5:8-9?

6. Why do you think the Jews asked the previously sick man who it was that healed him? (See 5:12)

**Read John 5:16-30 and answer the following questions**

7. What reasons are seen in chapter 5 which caused the Jewish leaders opposition to Jesus? (See 5:16, 5:18)

8. In what areas does Jesus claim to be equal with God the Father? (See 5:17-27)

**Read John 5:31-47 and answer the following questions**

9. With Jesus standing before them, how could the Jewish leaders have failed to see or hear God? (See 5:37-38)

10. List the mistakes made by the unbelieving Jews that Jesus pointed out in the following verses:

5:38

5:40

5:43

5:47

11. For what faults does Jesus rebuke the Pharisees in 5:39-44? List as many as you can.

12. What one truth from chapter five's lesson, can you apply to your own personal life today?

## The Man at Bethesda

Jesus' third sign miracle revolves around the issue of time. The man at the pool of Bethesda had lain there for 38 years, his entire life time as a helpless cripple. He probably had been in that spot before even Jesus was born. Imagine the disappointment he must have experienced time after time when the angel stirred the water. The problem was, he would always arrive late to experience that healing. Yet Jesus healed him and immediately he was able to walk. Jesus showed Himself to be the master of time. The question is, was Israel ready for Him? *“For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.”* John 5:16