

John 5:1-18

We have seen Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, and the first Passover of Jesus' earthly ministry. We have also examined Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus about being "born-again". We have seen that man is condemned already due to unbelief, and how we are to decrease so HE can increase. We have also seen Jesus showing the Samaritans how He was the Messiah.

Jesus comes from Galilee into Jerusalem to during a Jewish feast.

Intro: Feast - It is not certain quite possibly Tabernacles. v.1

The name v.2 I'm going to wait until the end, to tell you what this name means. Don't confuse is with Bethsaida (Bet Tseedah) of Galilee 5 Porches (Porticos) v.2

- I. The Situation v.3-7
 - 38 years! (by the way, this man is Jewish)
 - A question from Jesus "Will you be made whole?"
 - The man tells Jesus what *he* thinks he needs.
- II. The Solution v.8, 9
- III. The Sabbath Scenario v.10-13
 - The Jews were more concerned with this man's law breaking, than his miraculous healing.
- IV. The Sinful Source v.14 + 15
 - Jesus tells the man to turn from his sinful practices
 - He says the same thing to the woman caught in adultery.
 - The man then tells the Jews it was Jesus who healed him.
- V. The Sabbath "Breaker"? (v.10,16,-18)

Here we find a very curious instance where Jesus is accused of breaking the Sabbath, and causing someone else to break the Sabbath as well. We learned that It was the Sabbath day when Jesus healed this man, and told him to walk and carry his bed.¹

1. This was not a life threatening illness. Jesus could have easily waited until the next day if He wanted to.
2. This man's bed constituted "a burden" which was forbidden to be carried according to **Jeremiah 17:21,22**: "*Thus saith the Lord; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.*"
3. There was no logical reason (according to man's reasoning) for this man to carry his bed that day.
4. We can deduce that Jesus *purposefully* chose to heal this man on the Sabbath day, and *deliberately* asked him to do something which would be considered a violation of Sabbath law.
5. The Greek gives us even more additional insight into this passage: in verse 18 we read "...because he not only had broken the Sabbath." "Had broken" is in the continuous tense in Greek implying that Jesus was repeatedly involved in such activity.² This verb "to loose" is the verb all seminary students learn first. It can also be interpreted as "invalidate", "set aside", and even "destroy." It is translated this way in Jn 2:19 and 1st Jn 3:8.
 - What is Jesus doing?
 - What is His purpose?

¹ A large part of this Sabbath study is from Dale Ratzlaff's *Sabbath in Christ* (Life Assurance Ministries, Glendale, AZ) pp. 150-156.

² Leon Morris, *The New International Commentary of the New Testament, The Gospel of John*, (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, Grand Rapids MI, 1971) p. 307.

6. There was a man who was commanded to be stoned to death for gathering sticks on the Sabbath day in Numbers 15:32-36. *His* actions were probably done to meet some kind of human need. The man in John 5 didn't *need* to carry his bed *that day*.
7. Jesus' response in verse 17 begins to show us the answer to the whole Sabbath controversy.

THE SABBATH ACCORDING TO JESUS

Turn to EXODUS 20
 READ v. 8-11
 Read list of prohibited activities
 Turn to MATTHEW 12

A. THE OFFENSE V.1

Reaping

Definition: Severing a plant from its source of growth.

Removing all or part of a plant from its source of growth is reaping. Rabbinically it is forbidden to climb a tree, for fear this may lead to one tearing off a branch. It is also forbidden rabbinically to ride an animal, as one may unthinkingly detach a stick to hit the animal with.

Threshing/Extraction

Definition: Removal of an undesirable outer from a desirable inner.

This is a large topic of study. It refers to any productive extraction and includes juicing of fruits and vegetables and wringing (desirable fluids) out of cloths, as the juice or water inside the fruit is considered 'desirable' for these purposes, while the pulp of the fruit would be the 'undesirable.' As such, squeezing (S'chita) is forbidden unless certain rules are applied. The wringing of undesirable water out of cloths may come under the law of Melabain (Scouring/Laundrying)

- **THE ONLY SCRIPTURE ON THE SUBJECT (THAT I COULD FIND)**

[Exo 34:21](#) Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest:
 in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

This refers to wanting to plow or reap your crops on Saturday because of good weather.

B. THE REACTION V.2

C. TWO BIBLE EXAMPLES V.3-5

1. David - 1 Sam. 21:1-5
2. Priests (KINDLE A FIRE -Ex. 35:3)

D. THE PUNCHLINE part A. v.6

- p.68-69 - *a Rabbi Talks with Jesus*³

E. THE PROPHET'S WORDS v.7 - Hosea 6:6

- This is an anti-pharisaical message

F. THE PUNCHLINE part B v.8

- p.70-71 - *a Rabbi Talks with Jesus*⁴

G. THE CORE OF JESUS' MESSAGE 11:25-30

³ Jacob Neusner, *A Rabbi Talks With Jesus*, (Doubleday Publishing, New York, NY pp.68-69).

⁴ Ibid. pp.70-71.

1. WHO GETS IT? V.25-27

2. THE BEST SABBATH IN THE WORLD v.28-30

- p.72-74 - *a Rabbi Talks with Jesus*⁵

CONCLUSION: Have you experienced this? Are you now?

VI. The Savior's Deity v.15-18

- Jesus claim of God as His Father, made Him = with God.
- "I and the Father are one." ([Jn 10:24-38](#))
- "before Abraham was, I am!" ([Jn 8:57-58](#))
- "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." (Jn 14:9)

Conclusion: The name of this place? Bet - Chesda - which can have two meanings. House of Chesed - Loving Kindness, Mercy, Grace, but it is also shame (Pro 25:10) and reproach - Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalteth a nation: But sin is a reproach to any people.

This is a place of shame. It is a place of reproach -but when Jesus comes, it is a place of Grace. Whatever your need is, He can meet it. An probably not in the way that you think

⁵ Ibid. pp.72-74.