

**Daniel Perrin – Lesson 1: Signs That Point The Way – Tuesday, October 1: The Miracle at the Pool of Bethesda**

1. **John 5:1-9** — Setting of the Story – Jesus’ 2nd Visit to Jerusalem – 1st Sign in Judea
  - a. Sick People everywhere He looked — Created for the purpose of demonstrating God’s character
  - b. Sick are gathered — waiting for the Stirring the water
    - No Biblical instruction to do this or divine approval.
    - This is FINAL ATTEMPT trying what he’s heard works for other people – Barely clinging to Hope.
      - Hope in a supposedly miraculous pool of human legend and spiritual misinformation
    - **DA** – people died on the precipice of the pool — those who were not healed
  - c. With His mind focused on meditation and prayer, one extreme case catches His eye
    - “Extreme wretchedness”
    - **V.7** – Alone and friendless – years of misery – *“I have NO MAN to PUT me into the pool.”*
      - Completely helpless — in need of healing
      - He is resigned to die — Abandoned to die — and in all likelihood, that day is very soon
    - Jesus sees in Him the seeds of Faith
  - d. Jesus is a medical missionary – He meets People AT THEIR NEED
    - Most time spent healing the sick – more time healing than preaching
    - Imagine seeing His face after day in day out suffering
    - This man’s situation is where we find people today — REAL HELP that CHANGES THEIR LIFE
  - e. This Man MUST EXERCISE Faith
    - **V.8** – Direct Faith-Inspiring Command: “RISE”
    - Didn’t even ASK him to exercise faith – No spiritual lecture
    - But Jesus saw that faith was there — AND Jesus REVIVED His faith.
      - He addressed spiritual needs AS He addressed physical needs.
    - The legs is a visual illustration of the revival that is truly needed: FAITH
      - Walking is not just stepping, but a new way of life
2. The Lesson Asks: What is the relationship between sickness and sin?
  - a. There is **A** relationship between sin and sickness
    - **John 5:14** – *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”*
      - **DA 202** says that his condition was in a great degree the result of his own sin.
    - This fits with what we are told in **Galatians 6:7** – *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
    - It also must be noted that a Guilty conscience affects our health
      - David talks about this in **Psalm 32:3-5 and 38:3-5**
      - Guilt generates stress that is felt in the body and undermines the abundant life God offers (**John 10:10**).
  - b. **But this Bible truth had been misunderstood and misapplied**
  - c. **DA 471.1** – *It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become perverted. Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from*

God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner.

- Because of this idea, the Jewish leaders were ready to reject Jesus, WHY?
  - **Isaiah 53:3-4** TELLS US— ...A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... **SO** we esteemed Him stricken, — Smitten by God, and afflicted.
- God left them an example in the book of Job, but they did not understand it.
- SO – Jesus gives a SIGN – not only of His power – but of His love for sinners and suffering people.

d. What does the Bible say about the SOURCE of suffering?

- **Acts 10:38** – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- **Luke 13:16** – So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”
- Even Paul says in **2 Corinthians 12:7** – And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.
- **WHAT IS THE POINT?** – Regardless of the human cause — suffering is the work of Satan
  - **1 John 3:8** – He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
  - **Romans 8:28** – God can cause affliction to work for good – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**James 5:16** “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed...”

**Isaiah 33:24** “And the inhabitant will not say, ‘I am sick’; the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.”

**Psalms 32:3** – When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

**Psalms 38:3-5** – There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. <sup>4</sup> For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. <sup>5</sup> My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness.