

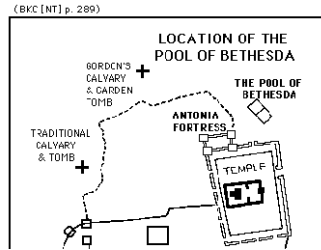
John 5:1-18 The Third Sign

Verse 1

A feast of the Jews – John does not identify the feast but it might have been Purim which was a Jewish-instigated feast to celebrate the deliverance of the Jews and Queen Esther.

Verse 2

The Pool of Bethesda was located outside the Sheep Gate.



Verses 3-4

Waiting for the moving of the waters- Most early manuscripts omit this phrase and all of verse 4. However it does occur in the majority of the texts and helps explain verse 7.

Verse 5

Thirty-eight years in his sickness – Perhaps this time period is an illustration of Israel who wandered for 38 years in the wilderness in a hopeless condition (Deuteronomy 2:14).

Verse 6

Do you wish to get well – This seems to be an obvious question but many people are content to remain in their tragic condition. Jesus only delivered people who wanted his help.

Verse 7

I have no one to put me into the pool – Instead of responding with “yes”, the man gave an excuse for why he could not be healed. He may have thought that Jesus was offering to help put him in the pool.

Verses 8-9

Arise, take up your pallet, and walk. And immediately the man became well...

Jesus healed by the power of His spoken word! The prophets had predicted that Messiah would heal the lame. Isaiah 35:4-6

Now it was the Sabbath on that day –

The fact that Jesus healed on the Sabbath would begin the persecution by the Jewish religious leadership.

Verse 10

It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet – According to the Jewish interpretation of the Law it was not permissible to carry anything from one place to another on the Sabbath.
The Sabbath – Saturday!

Exodus 20:8-11, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... in it you shall not do any work...”

Deuteronomy 5:15, “And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand...therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.”

Nehemiah 13:15-22, “...I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the Sabbath...then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, ‘What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the Sabbath day?’”

Jeremiah 17:21, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Take heed for yourselves, and do not carry any load on the Sabbath day or bring anything in through the gates of Jerusalem.’”

The Jews had taken God’s intent to free people from their work on the Sabbath and added their legalistic traditions.

To expose their hypocrisy, Jesus often did things (properly) on the Sabbath.

John 9:1-11 – Healing a blind man

Matthew 12:1-8 – Picking grain

Matthew 12:9-14 – Healing a man with a withered hand

Jesus explained the true reason for the Sabbath –

“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Consequently, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:27-28

Verses 11-13

He who made me well...said to me, ‘Take up your pallet and walk’.

Who is the man...

He who was healed did not know...For Jesus had slipped away...

Verses 14-15

Do not sin anymore, so nothing worse may befall you -

This may mean his condition was a result of sin or Jesus may be telling him not to use his new health as an opportunity to sin.

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus...

Because of his fear of being persecuted for breaking the Sabbath he informed the Jews that it was Jesus who healed him and gave him the command to carry his pallet.

Verse 16

The Jews were persecuting Jesus – This marks the beginning of opposition and persecution of Jesus by the Jewish establishment.

Verses 17-18

My Father is working until now – Jewish rabbis regarded God as working on the Sabbath because He maintained the universe.

I Myself am working – Jesus was claiming that His relationship to the Law was the same as God’s.

The Jews were seeking...to kill Him – The persecution now intensifies.

Making Himself equal with God – The Jews understood clearly that Jesus claimed to be God.

This third sign points clearly to the deity of Christ and illustrates John 20:30-31.