



# Gospel of John

1-15-23

- 1a In the Beginning – Love from Eternal Past
- 1b Come & See – Love Calls Forth Disciples
- 2-3 Everyone Who Believes – God Loved World
- 4 But Whoever Drinks – Love the Living Water
- 5 Pick Up Your Mat
- 6 I Am Bread
- 7 He Sent Me
- 8 I Am the Light
- 9 You Have Seen Me
- 10 I Know My Own
- 11 I Am the Resurrection

5:6 When 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?”



**Loving the Lonely**

Paralytic Healed at Bethesda  
by Palma il Giovane, 1592  
Collezione Molinari Pradelli  
Castenaso, Spain

John the Evangelist & Peter  
by Albrecht Dürer (1526)



# Scale Model of N.T. Jerusalem



**NE Part of  
Jerusalem**

**Pool @ Bethesda**

**About  
50 feet inside  
Sheep Gate or  
Lion's Gate or  
St. Stephen Gate**





**Paralytic Healed at Bethesda  
by Palma il Giovane, 1592**

**Collezione Molinari Pradelli  
Castenaso, Spain**

**This episode ONLY  
appears in the**

**Gospel of John 5**

***HOWEVER -***

**Matthew 9:6 & Mark 2:10-11**

**in Capernaum Jesus  
confronts Jews & Heals Paralytic**

***“Pick up your mat”***



## **38 YEARS**

- ✓ Man was paralyzed ... needy ...
- ✓ How many YEARS to the POOL
- ✓ How often was he THIRSTY to prolong time so that he would not need to PEE?
- ✓ How often did he STINK ... uncleaned?

**Then—Along Comes a STRANGER**

**And after 38 YEARS ... He is FREED from his Bondage  
Freed from dependence upon others for most THINGS**

**Now—in the LAND of the Walking Tall**







**After 38 YEARS**

What's it ***FEEL*** like to be

**FREE**



John 3, Jesus & Disciples go into Judean  
countryside and disciples baptize

John 4, Jesus was heading to Galilee ... thru Samaria

Woman at the Well – *No Guile Gal*

4:43-54 Jesus heads up to Galilee ... to Cana

4:46 Royal official's son lay sick at Capernaum

Official begs Jesus to come heal his son

4:50 “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

Father meets servants, son healed at time when Jesus said

4:54 2nd Sign Jesus performed after coming ... to Galilee.

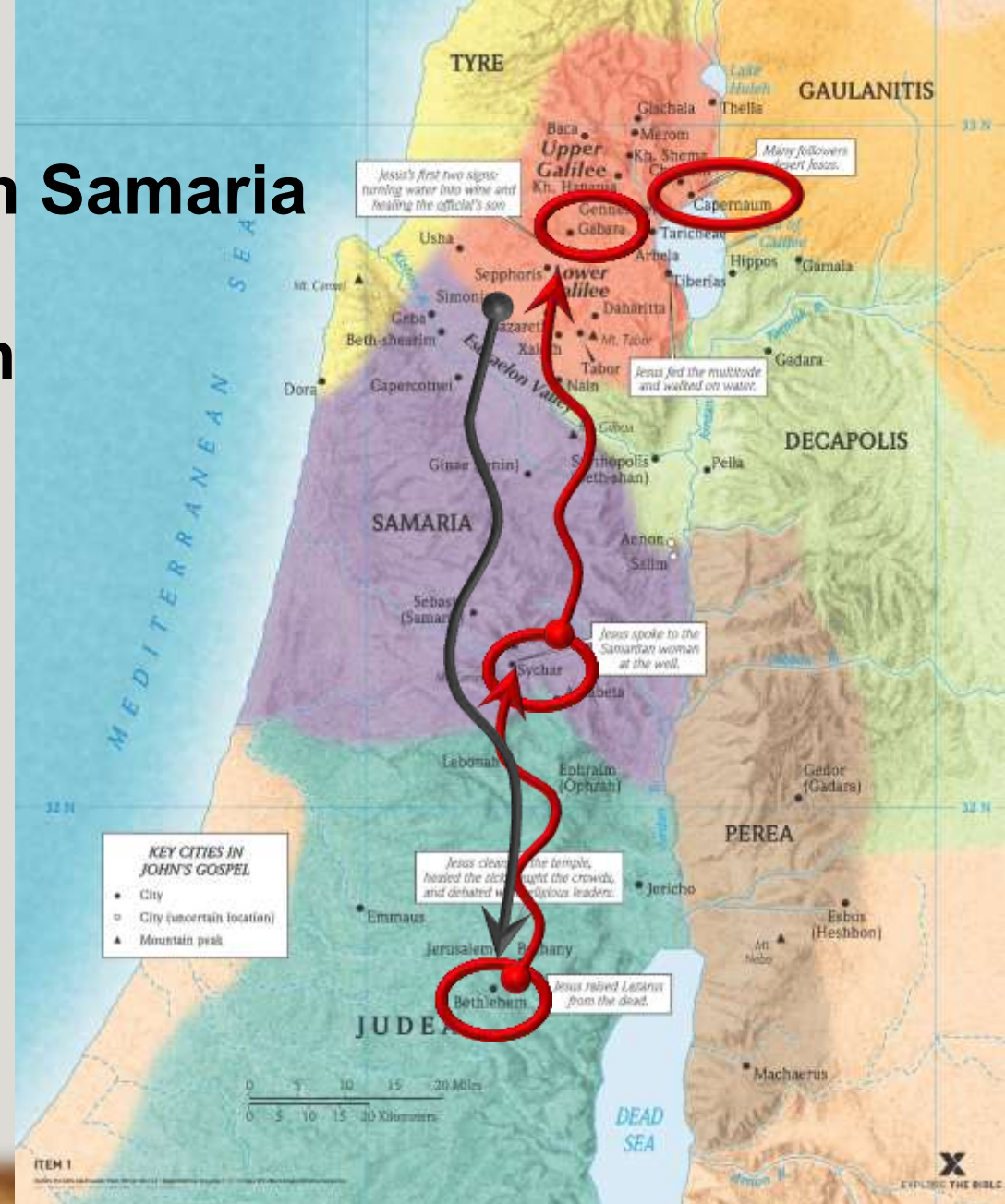


Jesus & Disciples  
Travel from Jerusalem to Sychar in Samaria  
Travel to Galilee  
Heals son of man from Capernaum  
Then travel back ... up to

**Jerusalem**

For a “festival” ... though  
which *festival* is uncertain

Perhaps the Passover





- ✓ John 5:1-15 Healing at Bethesda ...
- ✓ John 5:16-18 Jews want to **KILL** Jesus for
  1. healing on Sabbath
  2. calling himself God
- ✓ John 5:19-46 Jesus explains power to Judge

Jesus doing WORKS of Father

5:39 You study Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,  
40 yet you refuse to come to me to have **LIFE**.

Like many of Jesus' messages, as though to Pharisees ...

**Really to Everyone Listening**





John 5:1 Later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem ...

2 In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate is a pool ...  
Aramaic called Bethesda = “**House of Mercy**”

Lion’s Gate or St. Stephen’s Gate – 50 feet inside

3 Great number of disabled people used to lie—  
the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

**KJV** 4 For an angel went down at a certain season  
into the pool, and troubled the water:

whosoever after the troubling of the water **FIRST** stepped in  
was made **WHOLE** of whatsoever disease he had.

NIV & several Footnote vs 4 – *not in OLDEST BEST manuscripts*



**John 5:5 One there was an invalid for 38 years**

**We do NOT know his name ...**

**We do NOT know how many times  
he came to the Pool ... *House of Mercy***

**Perhaps he came every week for several years**

**OR ... whenever he could get FRIENDS to take him**

**Begging for a RIDE ... Hoping he could**

**THERE ... but the Blindman stuck HIS head in *FIRST***

**THERE ... but the Lame Man hopped in ... *FIRST***

**THERE ... Big SICK Man shoved 2 aside *JUMPED IN FIRST***





Being disabled ... creates a mindset ...

When we are Young & Healthy ... we can be BOLD  
**Sometimes, confident YOUTH feel SUPER-human**

Being disabled ... Blind ... Lane ... Paralyzed

You are DEPENDENT upon others for so very much

**38 YEARS Paralyzed** ... Totally Dependent on OTHERS

Only GO when OTHERS are Charitable

If paralyzed at 12 from FALLING off a horse ....

50-year-old Man has learned how to BEG

LEARNED how to SOFTLY talk ... totally INOFFENSIVE talk



## Scale Model of N.T. Jerusalem



**NE Part of  
Jerusalem**

**Pool @ Bethesda**

**About  
50 feet inside  
**Sheep Gate** or  
Lion's Gate or  
St. Stephen Gate**





## Scale Model of N.T. Jerusalem

**Bethesda =**  
**“House of Mercy”**

**360 feet length**  
**130 feet breadth**  
**75 deep**

**1st Part c. 800 B.C.**

**2nd Part c. 200 B.C.**

***I think* renovated  
by King Herod  
with Temple complex**



**5th Century - Byzantine empress Eudocia  
built basilica over the Pools of Bethesda  
called "Mary where she was born"**

**"Basilica" special kind of royal church**

**Destroyed by Persians in A.D. 614**

**Crusaders built a chapel over basilica**

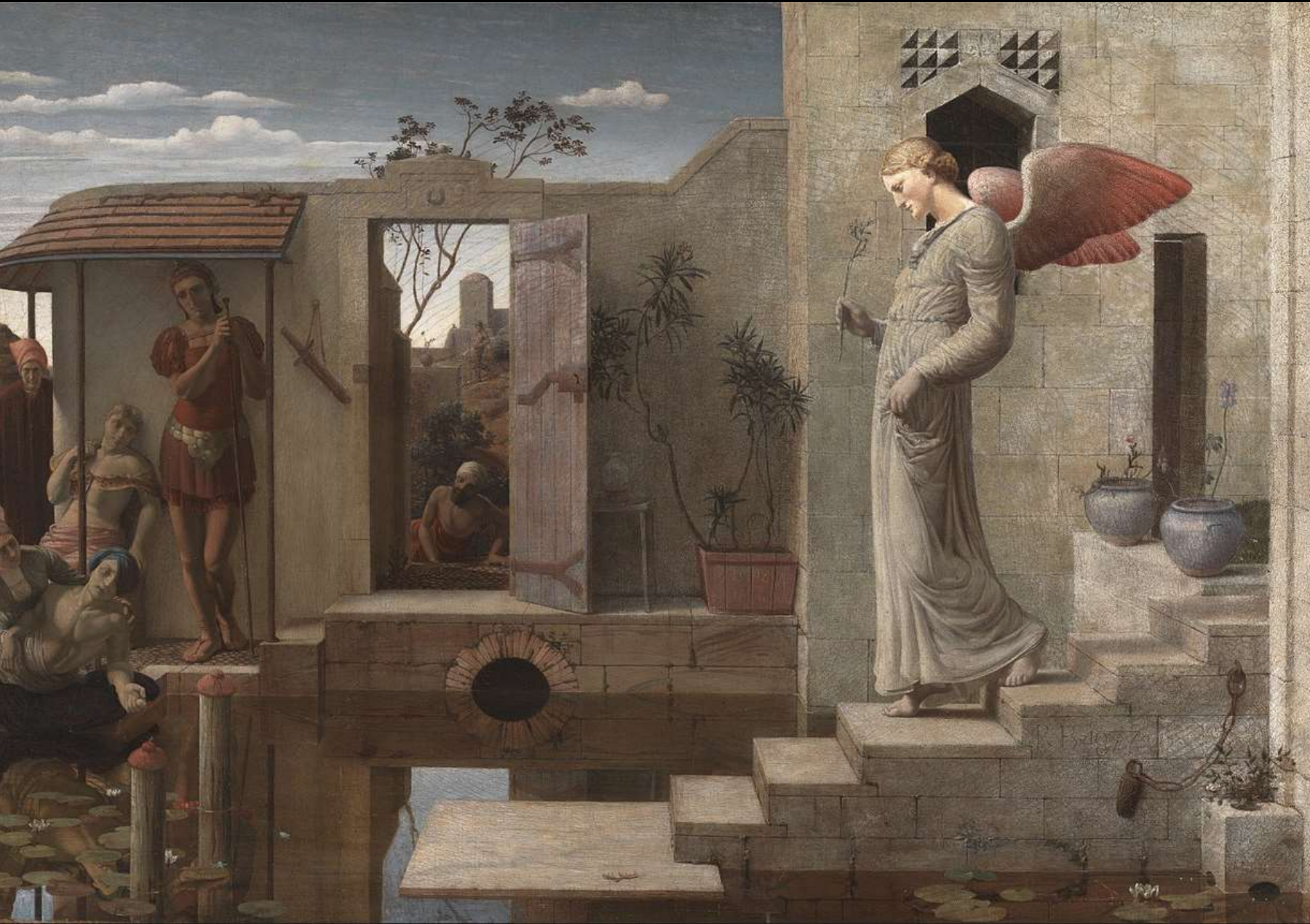
## **Church of the Paralytic**

**Entrance seen high over the pools**

**built one church over another**



Pool of Bethesda painting by Robert Bateman (1877)



**Pool @ Bethesda**

NE part of Jerusalem

**Bethesda =**

**House  
of  
Mercy**

John 5:5 ... there had been an invalid for 38 years  
6 When Jesus saw him lying there &  
LEARNED he had been sick a long time,  
Jesus asked him ...

QUESTION we ALL ponder ... *one way or another*  
Directly/Indirectly **11.4 Million** a Year Die from  
Alcohol / Drug Abuse

**300,000 Year** Die from Drug Overdose ... > **1/2 are under 50**

2020 USA ... **45,979 Suicides** ... One every 11 Minutes

**#1 Killer** is Heart Disease ... **#2 Killer** is Cancer





# USA 17,810 Spinal Injuries ...

Vehicular	Falls	Violence	Sports
38.6%	32.2%	14.0%	7.8%

**78% Men**

Disability ... hurts the soul ...

Disability ... also helps us see the ***SOUL of OTHERS***

Remember the story of the good SAMARITAN ...

**Golden Rule –**

**Do unto others as you would have them do to you**



This is an ADULT story  
NOT a story small children can grasp ...

CHILDREN have not LOVED Lonng

Everyone HERE has had a heartache ... *or 2 or 3*

Everyone's had *AILMENT* that knocked them OUT

An infirmity debilitated for a bit for days or WEEKS

Had the BREATH knocked OUT ... been in *PAIN* ...

EVERYONE here knows SOMETHING of **GREAT LOSS**

But NO ONE here has been paralyzed for

**38 YEARS**







How did the man  
become



**PARALYZED?**

Why Women  
**LIVE LONGER**



Paralytic Healed at Bethesda  
by Palma il Giovane, 1592

Collezione Molinari Pradelli  
Castenaso, Spain

**ONLY in John 5**

**QUITE Possible ... he regretted  
that day *38 YEARS ago***

**When told his buddy:**

**“Here, Hold My BEER!”**





John 5:5 ... invalid for **38 years**

6 When Jesus saw him lying there &  
**LEARNED** he had been sick a long time,  
Jesus asked him,

**QUESTION** we **ALL** should ponder ... *one day*  
Jesus asked him,

**“Do you WANT to get well?”**

Question only **SEEMS** obvious to us ... who are  
**Temporarily ABLE-bodied**

That is also the question of John 3:16 ... of Salvation



You understand ... that ALL of us ...

Are LOOKING for Bethesda ... **House of Mercy**

ALL ... are ill ... needy ... even DESPERATE for  
**Salvation**

ONLY ones **NOT** in GREAT Need are Self-Righteous

ONLY one **NOT** in GREAAAT Need ... are Pharisees

Jesus asked him,

**“Do you WANT to get well?”**

Key to Salvation ... is recognizing you **NEED a Savior**





## **Do you WANT to get well?**

He doesn't get it ... and too often, we do not get it

**John 5:7** “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.”**

Too often ... we put our TRUST in others ... “The Preacher”

Salvation is God's Offer ... Don't get distracted ...

**We must be WILLING to LOOK UP**



**John 5:7 “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.”**

**8 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up!**

**Pick up your mat and walk.”**

**9 AT ONCE the man was cured;  
he picked up his mat and walked ... on Sabbath.**

**No Cost ... No Exchange ... just “Get Up ... Walk”**







**After 38 YEARS**

What's it ***FEEL*** like to be

**FREE**



No question in my mind ...

Likely ... no question in YOUR mind either ...

NO EXPECTATION ... This **HIT** the Healed Man ...

**Shocked Healed Man**

EVERYTHING about Jesus seems to SHOCK

**38 YEARS ... and he is WALKING**

Down by the Bread Vender, the Baker ... is ... is  
Looking EYE to EYE to new Tall Walker ...

“Yes, its me,” said Tall Walker to the **SHOCKED Baker**

“Yes, its me,” Tall Walker told friend Pete who Helped 38 yrs





**John 5:10 Jewish Leaders *interrogate* Tall Walker**

**“It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to  
Carry Your Mat.”**

**11 But he replied, “The man who made me well  
said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”**

**12 So they asked him, “Who is this fellow  
who told you to pick it up and walk?”**

**13 Man who was healed had no idea who it was,  
for Jesus had SLIPPED away into the crowd....**

**Several of the Jewish LEADERS were shocked too**



**Their  
Hypocrisy  
MADE  
Clear to ALL**

Most knew who Tall Walker was ... 38 years invalid

**John 5:14** Later Jesus found him at the temple ...

**“See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”**

**15** Man told the Jewish leaders it was Jesus ...

**OF COURSE** he told the Jewish Leaders ...

He had lived an **HONEST** life ... **DEPENDENT**

Liars do NOT get helped to the **House of Mercy**

Shocked Tall Walker had NOT yet learned of Jews' Ugliness

Tall Walker was “walking” but still “Dependent” in his mind





Of course, we were dependent too  
invalid ... paralyzed ... supremely needy ...  
Waiting to be set FREE ...

Waiting to be TOLD, too, “Pick your mat”

To be a Christian ... is to be a *Healed Paralytic*

To be a Christian ... is to be *Raised from Dead*

Do not be surprised if the Unsaved ... ACT Dead

As for US ... for me & YOU ... we are in this World

***New Tall Walkers, too***

Once I was LOST ~ Now I am Saved ~ ***How Thankful are YOU?***

