



# John

## Lesson 5 Chapter 5

*It is believed that almost a year has passed between the events of Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, and now Jesus has returned to Jerusalem for another Passover celebration. Passover was one of the three Jewish feasts that every adult male was required to attend, the other two being Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) and the Feast of Tabernacles. It is obvious that it was important to Jesus to fulfill His commitments by observing the specified times of community worship even though He was aware that He would face strong opposition and persecution in Jerusalem. Upon His arrival Jesus went to a pool located near the Temple on the northeast side of the city. This pool named Bethesda, which means "house of the olive," was located in the*

*vicinity of the Sheep Gate where the sheep for sacrifices were sold. It was believed to be a pool of healing when the waters were stirred up. In the earliest manuscripts the last part of verse 3 and all of verse 4 weren't there but are believed to have been added later as an explanation of why the people were at the pool. It isn't known by historians whether the healing powers were reality or superstition, but we do know that Jesus went there to do something for the lame man what the water could not do. Once again His love and compassion for the afflicted brought greater resistance from the religious leaders due to their perceived view of His lack of adherence to the Sabbath, and His claim that God was His Father (vs.18).*

### READ CHAPTER 5

1. *How long had the man been sick? Why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man when there were many who needed healing?*
  
2. *How did Jesus heal the man?*  
*\*further study: cross reference and give several other ways that Jesus healed people*

3. *Why specifically were the Jews angry (vs.10)? What does Torah (first five books of the OT) require of the Sabbath? Exodus 20:9-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15.*



*In Judaism there is a difference between the Torah and Talmud laws. The Torah gives what God says to do or not to do, and the Talmud laws defined further what the Rabbis decided God meant in those laws. So the Talmud, which was made up of many sections covering all areas of Jewish daily life, defined the parameters for the things God required according to the Rabbinic interpretation. The Rabbis determined rules for keeping Sabbath defining what could and couldn't be done. There were a few things that would obviously overrule the Sabbath restrictions. One was circumcising. To circumcise was a higher level of requirement than the Sabbath and therefore could be performed on the Sabbath. This is the Rabbinic law that Jesus confronted the leaders with in John 7:22-24. Another rule difficult to define was whether giving medical help would be breaking the Sabbath. A woman giving birth on the Sabbath could be helped, or if the situation was life threatening, they could help. If not, one was to wait until Sabbath was over. This was the argument used by the Jews against Jesus in Luke 13:10-17. So Jesus was not breaking Torah rules when He healed on the Sabbath, only Talmud laws were the ones in question. His point to the religious leaders was that the nature of the Sabbath was to do good for mankind not to harm. The law of love was to determine the precise rules for Sabbath keeping, not just manmade judicial laws.*

4. *After confronting Jesus about healing on the Sabbath in vs.16-17, by His response what did the Jews understand that Jesus believed about Himself? Vs. 18. See also John 10:24-33.*

5. *From verses 19-27, how does Jesus describe His relationship with His Father?*



***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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