

Gospel Reflections:
JOHN 5

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JOHN 5:1-6

- 1: After this there was a feast of the Jews; and JESUS went up to Jerusalem.
- 2: Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.
- 3: In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.
- 4: For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.
- 5: And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.
- 6: When JESUS saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

It is written by the prophet in ZECHERIAH 7:9-10, "Thus speaketh The LORD of Hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart." A civilized society, most especially a Christian one, has the Divinely appointed duty to care for the truly helpless, vulnerable and afflicted. And if The Church will not attend to the downtrodden and helpless, the often today the state steps in, and in fact displacing The Church from many of her former GOD-ordained areas of ministry.

But in our godless modern-day welfare state society, many have taken upon themselves the pretended mantle of disability, that they might sit at home in sloth, receiving as their entitlement the fruits of the labours of others. Others, though they have been made well, either by miracle of The Maker or the medicine of man, continue to cling on to their afflictions, pretending to continue in helpless distress in order to do the same.

Saint Paul commands as CHRIST's Apostle in II THESSALONIANS 3:10, "...if any would not work, neither should he eat!" Here the cripple man at the waters, though he apparently has true affliction in body, is challenged by The Lord, "Do you truly wish to be made whole again? This will mean that you will have to give up your false idol of sloth, and take your place as GOD intends for you as a productive member of society!"

JOHN 5:7-18

- 7: The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.
- 8: JESUS saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.
- 9: And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was The Sabbath.
- 10: The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is The Sabbath Day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.
- 11: He answered them, He that made me whole, The Same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

12: Then asked they him, What Man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

13: And he that was healed wist not who it was: for JESUS had conveyed Himself away, a multitude being in that place.

14: Afterward JESUS findeth him in The Temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

15: The man departed, and told the Jews that it was JESUS, which had made him whole.

16: And therefore did the Jews persecute JESUS, and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on The Sabbath Day.

17: But JESUS answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18: Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken The Sabbath, but said also that GOD was His Father, making Himself equal with GOD.

Here our Lord then indeed heals the lame man, and he is made whole by CHRIST's Word spoken from the mouth of GOD Incarnate. But when the man was found by the religious authorities of the Jews to be carrying his cripple bed on The Sabbath Day, they got hold of him to interrogate him. Finding that he had been healed on The Sabbath Day, and that by JESUS, they were more than just indignant.

And when they discovered that JESUS healed this poor man by forgiving him his sins, they were prepared to murder CHRIST even here. Why? It would certainly be just indeed, if JESUS was not The CHRIST, and He – proclaiming Himself equal with GOD – was not in fact GOD Incarnate. But because of the haughty, self-righteous blindness in their hearts, the Jewish religious authorities – seeing the danger of their own hypocrisy being exposed before the people – could not see that The Messiah had indeed come in their day and was there amongst them!

And what hypocrisy indeed! For here is The Creator Who has taken of human flesh to enter the world of men – which He created – to redeem mankind because of His great mercy and love. Here is The Maker Incarnate, Who instituted and commanded The Sabbath Day for a time of rest from worldly labours and communion between GOD and man, and they simply don't get it. To do good on The Sabbath Day is to honour He Who made The Sabbath Day and all things, He Who has shown us what He requires, as in MICAH 6:8, to do "...what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD!"

JOHN 5:19-27

19: Then answered JESUS and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth The Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth The Son likewise.

20: For The Father loveth The Son, and sheweth Him all things that Himself doeth: and He will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21: For as The Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so The Son quickeneth whom He will.

22: For The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto The Son:

23: That all men should honour The Son, even as they honour The Father. He that honoureth not The Son honoureth not The Father which hath sent Him.

24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25: Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of The Son of GOD: and they that hear shall live.

26: For as The Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to The Son to have life in Himself;

27: And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is The Son of Man.

When Abraham ascended up the mount with his son Isaac to make sacrifice of his only beloved son, Isaac asked of him in GENESIS 22:7, "...My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" In verse 8 we read, "And Abraham said, My son, GOD will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering..."

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהִים יִרְאֶה-לּוֹ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה

VAYYOMER 'AVRAHAM 'ELOHYIYM YIR'EH-LO HASSEH LE"OLAH – And he said Abraham, GOD He will reveal, show, exhibit for Himself the sheep for the whole burnt offering...! The whole burnt offering was offered up under The Law of Moses at The Tabernacle and then The Temple to atone for the sins of men, it's death standing in place of the sinner, being consumed completely for the debt payment of that person's sin-guilt before The Almighty.

Here Saint John is revealing to us once again, by the inspiration of The HOLY SPIRIT, the hypostatic union of JESUS CHRIST – fully GOD and fully Man but without sin in His Incarnation. See here the inseparably close oneness of GOD The Son with GOD The Father. And it could not be any other way. For The Messiah had to come as fully Divine, so that His infinite righteousness and goodness could pay the awful sins of mankind. And He had to come as also fully Man but without sin, that He could take upon Himself those same awful sins of mankind in our place!

So they that hear the voice of The Son of GOD hear the voice of The Almighty Himself. GOD The Son comes to us, sacrificing Himself as The Perfect Lamb of GOD, The Living Eternal Whole Burnt Offering - עֹלָה - "OLAH, come to redeem our souls from sin, sorrow, suffering and death, both earthly and eternal! This is Saint Anselm's Perfect Payment for the sins of men by The CHRIST, an exchange so great and wonderful, that we should every day be upon our knees thanking The King of the universe that he so loves us!

JOHN 5:28-47

- 28: Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice,
- 29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.
- 30: I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of The Father Which hath sent Me.
- 31: If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.
- 32: There is Another that beareth witness of Me; and I know that The Witness which He witnesseth of Me is true.
- 33: Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto The Truth.
- 34: But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.
- 35: He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.
- 36: But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which The Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of We, that The Father hath sent Me.
- 37: And The Father Himself, Which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.
- 38: And ye have not His Word abiding in you: for Whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not.
- 39: Search The Scriptures; for in Them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.
- 40: And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life.
- 41: I receive not honour from men.
- 42: But I know you, that ye have not the love of GOD in you.
- 43: I am come in My Father's Name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.
- 44: How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from GOD only?
- 45: Do not think that I will accuse you to The Father: there is One that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.
- 46: For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me.
- 47: But if ye believe not his Writings, how shall ye believe My Words?

How convicting These Words of our Lord are! For so often we in The Church, claiming His Name and His Mercy at The blessed Cross, do often not in truth receive Him! If we do not receive JESUS CHRIST as Lord over all that we are, we then are setting up false idols in the throne rooms of our hearts, and can not then know The Almighty Father.

The Jews had The Torah, The Writings and The Prophets all long since set down by the First Advent of CHRIST. And yet they would not receive JESUS. Why? Because in truth, they – like many Christian often at times – do not fully believe The Word of GOD! And woe to any man who comes before the judgement seat of The LORD Above, who during his earthly life, did not accept The Holy Scriptures and of

Whom They speak! If our older brethren in The Lord, The Jews, will have no excuse on their day of judgement for rejecting The Messiah, how much less shall we, The Gentiles, have any excuse for rejecting The Messiah? GOD forbid!