

John 5:1-15, New King James Version (NKJV)

5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ***2*** Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ***3*** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralysed, waiting for the moving of the water. ***4*** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ***5*** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ***6*** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” ***9*** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. ***10*** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

11 He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”

12 Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ***13*** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ***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.”

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The main points of the sermon:

- 1- **Sheep Gate and the gates of the walls of Jerusalem.**
- 2- **Bethesda.**
- 3- **Moving of the water.**
- 4- **“Do you want to be made well?”**

Details of the points:

1- **The Sheep Gate and the gates of the wall of Jerusalem :**

1-1: We knew from the book of Nehemiah Chapter 3 that Eliashib the High Priest together with his brothers the priests are those who build this gate as we read in [Nehemiah 3:1](#) ,Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

1-2: In the walls of Jerusalem there were 10 gates which were built in the era of Nehemiah the prophet they are as follows:

The Cheep Gate (Nehemiah 3.1), The East Gate (Nehemiah 3.29),The Horse Gate (Nehemiah 3.28),The Water Gate (Nehemiah 3.26),The Fountain Gate (Nehemiah 3.15),The Dung Gate (Nehemiah 3.13),The Valley Gate (Nehemiah 3.13),The Old Gate (Nehemiah 3.6) and The Fish Gate (Nehemiah 3.3).

1-3: The sheep gate was the gate which the sheep and lambs used in the sacrifice were brought through. No prizes for knowing that this speaks of the very first experience we come into our Christian life – this is, a realisation that Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. The sheep Gate then speaks to us of the cross and the sacrifice that was made for our sins. We will also notice if we read all chapter 3 from the book of Nehemiah that the Sheep Gate was also mentioned at the very end we have come full circle. That is because everything starts and ends with Jesus’ death on the cross.

The lesson we need to learn here is that without the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Chris the real Lamp of God there was no healing for our race. Let us then carry the cross behind our Lord Jesus Christ,

2- **Bethesda:**

2-1: The name of the pool is said to be derived from the Hebrew language and/or Aramaic language. *beth hesda* (בית חסד/חסדא), meaning either *house of mercy*^[3] or *house of grace*. In both Hebrew and Aramaic the word could also mean 'shame, disgrace'. This dual meaning may have been thought appropriate since the location was seen as a place of disgrace due to the presence of invalids, and a place of grace, due to the granting of healing

The Lesson we need to learn here is that the church is our mother which is the place of those who were injured by the sting of sin and their situation became shame and at the same time inside our beloved Orthodox Church we can find the grace and mercy from our beloved Lord Jesus Christ through our church Sacraments and the means of grace. So we need to be very much closed to the church of God.

3- Moving of the water:

3-1: Moving the water in the pool of Bethesda brought our minds to the first time we read about the water in the Holy Bible which was mentioned in **Genesis 1:2**, *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

3-2: The "Spirit of God" hovering over the waters comes from the Hebrew phrase *ruach elohim*, also a "great wind".^[8] Victor Hamilton decides, somewhat tentatively, for "spirit of God", but dismisses any suggestion that this can be identified with the Holy Spirit of Christian theology.^[9]

Rûach (רוּחַ) has the meanings "wind, spirit, breath," and *elohim* can mean "great" as well as "god": the *ruach elohim* which moves over the Deep may therefore mean the "wind/breath of God" (the storm-wind is God's breath in Psalms 18:16 and elsewhere, and the wind of God returns in the Flood story as the means by which God restores the earth), or God's "spirit", a concept which is somewhat vague in Hebrew bible, or simply a great storm-wind.

The lesson here is that we need trust that God will restore us if we repent from our sins.

4- “Do you want to be made well?”

We need to learn here many lessons:

4-1: To be well we need to have good friends who has faith in our Lord as we read in

4-1—1: The Lord Jesus Christ healed another Paralytic person when He saw the faith of his friends as we read in **Matthew 9:1-2, New King James Version (NKJV) 9** *So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”*

4-1-2: The Almighty Lord healed all who were sick in the Land of Gennesaret as we read in **Matthew 14:34-36, New King James Version (NKJV) 34** *When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, 36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.*

4-2: To be well we ourselves need to have faith in our Lord , our dear Lord Jesus Christ healed the woman who had flow of blood for twelve years as we read in **Matthew 9:20-22, New King James Version (NKJV) 20** *And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. 21 For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” 22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.*

4-3: In order to be well we need to believe that there is nothing impossible in the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Beloved Lord raised from the dead the daughter of Jairus as we read in **Luke 8:40-42, 49-56,**

New King James Version (NKJV)⁴⁰ So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. ⁴¹ And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

⁴⁹ While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.”

⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.” ⁵¹ When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. ⁵² Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” ⁵³ And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

⁵⁴ But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, “Little girl, arise.” ⁵⁵ Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. ⁵⁶ And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.