

“JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD ([Acts 2:22](#))”

**Miracle #8 – “A 38 YEAR IMPOTENT MAN AT BETHESDA POOL”
([John 5:1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16](#))**

A ‘re-enactment’ of the healing for the great impotent and helpless multitude of Israel ... languishing 38 years in the desert

Israel’s salvation history is awash with water with the locusts being cast into the Red Sea ([Exodus 10:19](#)); to the crossing of the Red Sea ([Exodus 14:22](#)); to the bitter springs of Marah made sweet by a tree being the LORD ([Exodus 15:23](#)); to the eventual crossing of the River Jordan ([Joshua 3:17](#)); to Naaman, the leper captain dipping seven times to be washed clean as the flesh of a child ([2 Kings 5:14](#)) and so on.

POINTS TO NOTE:

- 1. A coincidence? NO! Jesus the shepherd, seeing a great multitude of impotent ‘sheep’ ... blind, halt and withered, at a pool called Bethesda, meaning “Mercy”, by the sheep market, at the time of Passover ... remembering the liberty of being set free.**
- 2. The time of languishing for this impotent man is 38 years which is the time Israel languished in the desert.**
- 3. The impotent man didn’t know it was Jesus ([John 5:13](#))**
- 4. It could have been anyone asking “Wilt thou be made whole?” ([John 5:6](#)). As if the man would say “No thanks, I’m good!”. After 38 years of absolute depressing failure to get to the moving waters first, all he can say is to give reasons why he hasn’t been healed. He ignores the question ... not even knowing it is Christ that is addressing him.**
- 5. Jesus simply says unto him, *Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.* ([John 5:8](#)). Christ’s words are power ... the reality merely follows ... as in creation “Let there be light.”**
- 6. The Jews had made up a stupid rule ... *It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.* ([John 5:10](#)). Christ says “*How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.*” ([Matthew 12:12](#); [Luke 6:9](#))**
- 7. Jesus said to the man that his impotence was the result of sin ... “...sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” ([John 5:14](#))**

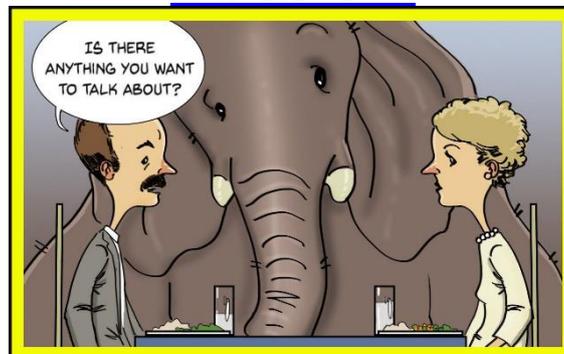
8. " ... the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day." ([John 5:16](#)). Why? His popularity was the issue ... the Sabbath was merely the excuse.

LESSONS:

1. Unlike Israel's history, Christ does **not** need actual water for the impotent man to be healed. Although Jesus Christ is the LORD JEHOVAH of the Old Testament, he by-passes the water treatment for healing and salvation, by simply speaking the words ... no water 'prop' is needed! It's like he is 'better than' JEHOVAH in the Old Testament.
2. In other cases of healing, Christ gets an **answer** from the man or woman concerned before proceeding eg "Oh yes, I believe you can heal me Lord!" or "I will!" and so on.
3. Without knowing who Christ was, and not answering "I will", Christ moves **independent** of the impotent man. It seems none of the others knew who Christ was either.
4. Christ proves he is **omnipotent** and **omniscient**, that is all powerful and all knowing the man's condition, by simply arriving on the scene, and maybe looking like any other person.
6. Christ's injunction to the man reminds us of Paul's observations about becoming weak and sickly **by continuing in sin** ([1 Corinthians 11:30-31](#)). Israel's continuing sin was their disobedience and murmuring in the desert ([Numbers 14:22, 27, 29](#))

Harley Hitchcock
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"CONTACT US"



Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia
www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com