

*“The Cross-Cultural Christ”*

John 5:1-15

March 9, 2014

VIDEO: John 4:43-54 (Royal Official & sick son)

Intro: Today we'll pick up with ch.5...

Today begins another “turning point”

Today we shift from “Contrast” to “Conflict”

Our passage (5:1-14) is part of a larger whole...

\*\*\* Ch.5 is a trial & model of sorts...

\*\*\* 5:1-14 has three parts:

- Context: Continuation of Christ
- Conversation: Compilation...
- Commentary: Confrontation...

T/S: Let's get started...

Today's Message: “The Cross-Cultural Christ”

Big Idea: It ALWAYS comes back to a heart-thing!

T/S: Okay... let's look at the "Context" & "Continuation"

*"We need to read our Bible's better "*

A. Maybe: "We need to read our Bibles" - period!

1. Reading before Sunday?
2. Remember I asked you to come "ready" on Sunday

B. Notice: transition...

1. Context... ch.1
2. Contrast... ch.2-4
3. Conflict... ch.5-10 (amidst the "festival cycle")

John's "festival cycle" structure:

- The Sabbath Festival in Jerusalem (ch. 5)
- The Passover Festival in Galilee (ch. 6)
- The Tabernacles Festival in Jerusalem (chs. 7-8)
- Case Study: A Blind Man and "Light" (ch. 9)
- The Hanukkah Festival in Jerusalem (ch. 10)

Festivals were made by God to bring good gifts to his people, not to legislate and control behavior.

Chapter 5 (and John's Gospel overall) places Jesus on trial not simply at the end of his life (as in the Synoptics), but rather continually...

But there is an ironic twist here because in the end, it is not Jesus who is on trial; the world is on trial.

*"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil" (3:19).*

*\*\*\* Parallel biblical ekklesia in koinonia today vs. lukewarm liberalism! - JDP*

## **CONTEXT: (vv.1-5) “continuation of Christ...”**

5:1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

- NOTE: begin’s John’s “festival cycle”
- Back to Jerusalem = back to stir things up!

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep *gate* a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes.

- See the details... John wants you to KNOW
- Archeology quiets allegory!

3 In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters;

- See Christ’s compassion (again!)
  - \* Why is He there on a Sabbath?

- \* Pure Christ-likeness: (least of these)
- \* Continuing to heal the sick...
- \* Jesus initiates!

\*\*\* **“Impotent people are IMPORTANT people to Jesus.”** - JDP

v.4 = “non-text”

- \* Inspired & Inerrant = original autographs!
- \* One reason for other than King James...
- \* Get to know your way around the Bible...

5 A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

- 38 years with little, no, or false hope...
- How long you been sitting around superstitiously
- Let’s watch & see what 1 visit to Jesus can do...

**CONVERSATION: (vv.6-13)**  
**“compilation of Christ”**

1. Jesus initiates...
2. Jesus "KNEW"
3. Jesus asked: "Do you want to get/be well?"
4. Jesus mercifully overlooks the man's "non-answer"
5. Jesus healed the man (without faith!)
6. Jesus broke man-made religious "law"
7. Jesus instructed the man to do the same...
8. Jesus proved His deity again! ("Immediately... well")

**\*\*\* Then the "Cross-Cultural Conflict" begins... \*\*\***  
**(see v.9b)**

5:6 When Jesus saw him lying *there*, and knew that he had already been a long time *in that condition*, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?"

\*\*\* Jesus is asking you today:  
(He sent me to ask you)... Do you want to get well?"

Christians consummate what Christ initiates - JDP

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."

- Non-answer...
- Too many of us "look to man" for help...

8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk."

Observe:

1st. That it was a remarkable command. Jesus, when he gives a commandment, can give strength to obey it.

2nd. It is our business to obey the commands of Jesus, however feeble we feel ourselves to be. His grace will be sufficient... (there's NO CAN'T in CHRIST!)

3rd. The weak and helpless sinner should put forth his efforts in obedience to the command of Jesus. (Never was a sinner more *helpless* than was this man...)

9a Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk.

9b Now it was the Sabbath on that day.

\*\*\* This is the contextual & theological point...

10 So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to

carry your pallet.” 11 But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘**Pick up your pallet and walk.**’”

- NOTE: He is throwing Jesus under the bus...

12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘**Pick up your pallet and walk?**’” 13 But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in *that* place.

- NOTE: Jesus often slipped away (not yet time)

The Jews protected the Sabbath and held it aloft as a vital symbol of Jewish culture and religion. The oral laws of Judaism at this time (reflected in the *Mishnah*) outlined thirty-nine categories of things that were forbidden on Sabbath, and carrying something such as a bed from one place to another was prohibited (*Shabbath* [7:2](#)).

For the first time in the Gospel, Jesus' opponents show themselves in all their hostility.

John himself and his congregations are experiencing this sort of examination and trial as well. A gospel that speaks of Jesus' life in this way will greatly encourage people living under serious threats. Paul does the same thing in [1 Thessalonians 2](#).

15:18-25. Jesus begins by saying, "*If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.*" ...Imagine a sermon in the first century based on this passage, directed to the same people reading 1 John!

EXAMPLE: You could spit on the Sabbath...

QT: The most vicious people in the body of Christ are list-makers who can find no joy in another soul healed if something in that changed person's life does not measure up to their rules...

This is a pharisaic mentality—extra-Biblical requirements by which we judge others and set our own standards of spirituality. (Illustration: Sermon on the Mount graphic in my office)

MEANING OF THE SABBATH:

The Sabbath was a time of celebration. It was marvelously liberating because a man worked six days, but on the seventh he was free to focus upon God, to celebrate his presence and power. So the Sabbath was a



time of joy. But when Christ came, the shadow or reflection was no longer needed.

\*\*\* Great Sabbath ILLUSTRATION: (Photo vs. Presence)

[Col. 2:16-17](#) says:

*Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with respect to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a mere shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

## What Sunday Is All About

resurrection.

ascend into heaven...

first appeared to his disciples.

he first broke bread with his disciples after the Resurrection.

Jesus gave a fuller understanding of the Scriptures to his disciples.

Jesus commissioned his disciples to the task of world evangelism.

On Sunday Jesus breathed on his disciples so that they received the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit descended on the church at Pentecost.

On Sunday Paul preached to believers gathered together for worship, as was their custom ([Acts 20:7](#)).

Sunday the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to John on the island of Patmos and gave him the book of Revelation.

**As Christians, we do not *observe* the Sabbath, but we do *celebrate* it...**

Sunday is our day to express our joy in the resurrection.

Qt: We may need to rest on Sunday if we had a frantic work schedule the other six days, but this should not be at the expense of active, holy service on the Lord's Day. That day is to be wonderfully filled with activity as we teach, minister, witness, and rejoice together.

Qt: The false religion of Judaism, like all false systems, cannot change the inside, so it is left to manipulate life on the outside. - Ironside

## **COMMENTARY: v.14**

### **“confrontation of Christ”**

5:14 Afterward Jesus \*found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”

*Unlike many alleged modern healings, Jesus' healings were complete and instantaneous, with or without faith.*

This one proves the point, since the man exhibited no faith in Jesus at all. Yet he was healed instantly and wholly.

...the Lord deliberately chose to heal this man on the Sabbath to confront superficial and bankrupt Jewish legalism. Jesus could have easily chosen another day to heal him. But the Lord not only wanted to show mercy to this man; He also wanted to call the nation to repentance by confronting the self-righteous and unbiblical stipulations that led to their illusion of spiritual life.

They had become experts at substituting their traditions for God's commands ([Matt. 15:9](#)).

If the man persisted in unrepentant sin, Jesus warned, he would suffer a fate infinitely worse than thirty-eight years of a debilitating disease—namely, eternal punishment in hell.

The man's response suggests that he failed to heed Jesus' warning, since he promptly went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. It is astonishing that he would accept this healing after nearly four decades of terrible distress and then walk away from Jesus and show his loyalty to the Jews who hated Him.

\*\*\* LINK exegetically & contextually \*\*\*  
(9 out of 10 lepers...)

This has to be one of the great acts of ingratitude and obstinate unbelief in Scripture. He did not intend to praise or worship Jesus for healing him.

Qt: No man who indulges in vice can tell what may be its consequences.... Sooner or later, sin will always result in misery. - Barnes

Qt: *The proof of spiritual cure, is our rising and walking.*

*Has Christ healed our spiritual diseases, let us go wherever he sends us, and take up whatever he lays upon us; and walk before him.*

- Matthew Henry

Expand “worse” (Gk: 5501) from v.14

Matthew 12:45 = *Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse G5501 than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”*

Matthew 27:64 = *“Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse G5501 than the first.”*

2 Timothy 3:13 = *But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, G5501 deceiving and being deceived.*

2 Peter 2:20 = *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse G5501 for them than the first.*

**Let's Pray...**