

John 5:1-18, Daily Devotions

❑ Monday - The Sovereign Grace of God.

John 5:3, 5-6

At the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem there was “a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered” (John 5:3). And among this multitude “a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 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?’” (John 5:5-6). Our text does not say that Christ healed all at Bethesda, nor does it say that He healed many; rather, He healed one. Out of the many, Christ chose one upon whom He would put His grace on display, for “He has mercy on whom He desires” (Rom. 9:18). This is the very nature of grace which is the undeserved favor of God. Jesus declares, “You did not choose Me but I chose you” (John 15:16), for “by His doing you are in Christ Jesus” (1 Cor. 1:30). And even though we may not fully understand it, we should revel in God’s sovereign grace. Read John 1:12-13; Acts 13:48

❑ Tuesday - Jesus Knows Your Affliction.

John 5:6

At the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, we read that “a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.” This was news to John’s readers, but old information to Christ, for it says that Jesus “knew that he had already been a long time in that condition” (John 5:6). Friend, Jesus knows your every affliction (Ex. 3:7). Christ was Himself “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isa. 53:3). He knows every tear that you have shed (Psa. 56:8), and He is able to come to the aid of those who are suffering (Heb. 2:17-18). Call upon Him today. Read Psalm 31:7; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 12:7-10

❑ Wednesday - The Sickness of Sin.

John 5:14

After Jesus healed the man who had been ill for thirty-eight years, we read, “Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, ‘Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may befall you’” (John 5:14). All sickness is not due to personal sin (John 9:1-3), but some is and the consequences of sin are a hard paymaster. Christian, if you are afflicted physically, emotionally or spiritually, let this be the first course in your treatment: repent of any and all known sin. Read James 5:16

❑ Thursday - He Never Sleeps or Slumbers.

John 5:16-17

“For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working’” (John 5:16-17). When Scripture declares that God made the heavens and the earth in six days and then rested from all of His works on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2-3), within the context of the rest of Scripture, we understand this to mean that God has rested only from His work of Creation, for His works of sovereign grace, regeneration, justification, sanctification, etc. yet continue. God is not like a watchmaker, as some suppose, who created the universe and then sits back and watches it run on its own. No, He who never sleeps nor slumbers (Psa. 121:4), is even now *working* all things after the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11). And so, we are not only coheirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17), but co-laborers (1 Cor. 3:9).

Read Luke 10:2

❑ Friday - God the Son.

John 5:17-18

Jesus called God “My Father” not “our Father,” essentially claiming that He was of the same essence as God the Father (John 5:17), and “For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He ... was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God” (John 5:18). Jesus corrected many of the Jews’ misunderstandings, but He did not correct them here, for they rightly understood that He was saying He is God. The deity of Jesus Christ is one of the central themes of John’s gospel and a cardinal truth of authentic Christian faith. Let us therefore, confess with our mouths Jesus is Lord, i.e. God (Rom 10:9).

Read John 10:30, 33, 14:9-10