

John shows us Jesus bringing the gospel to a royal official (4:46-54). This drives home the truth that the good news of God's grace is available for all types of people, to everyone in the world. In John 5 Jesus is on trial. How are people going to respond, what decision is made in these people's hearts. They hear all the evidence but make a disastrously wrong decision. In this section we see a shift from reservation and hesitation about Jesus as messiah to outright rejection. There is opposition when Jesus heals the paralytic man on the sabbath. Following this miracle, Jesus confronts the Jew's religious hypocrisy with clear statements about His deity. Here we see the first evidence of the murderous intent of the Jewish leaders (v.18). Be reminded that these miracles are pointers to the power of God behind them. – phenomena have no value unless they point to God and His truth.

Jesus spoke with His actions as much as His words. In this section we see John record events in which Jesus proclaimed *His healing power*. In John 5 we immediately see the compassion and mercy of Christ in this miracle. The cry of the man in John 5:7, "*I have no one to help me*" is a common cry of the human heart. This man had been there for so long, 38 years he had been there with no one to help him. Do you feel this way? Is there "*no one to help you*", look to Jesus who is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is waiting and ready for you to turn to Him (Hebrews 13.8).

With just the words, "*Go your son lives*", Jesus brought the official's son back from the brink of death (4:46-53). With a question and a command, Jesus then freed a man who was imprisoned within his own body. "*Do you wish to get well?...get up, pick up your mat and walk*" (5:2-9). Jesus has power over distance, over 20 miles away and Jesus heals this royal official's son. Jesus does not have to be physically near to grace us with His healing power. And with a single sentence (v.8), Jesus ended the *invalid* man's suffering and overcome his impossibility. Jesus has power over despair and hopelessness. Nothing we suffer from-no addiction, ailment, or conflict- is too entrenched for the power of God's majestic Son.

The Jews majored on the fact Jesus had done this miracle on the Sabbath. Look at Jesus, (v.18) "*He had broken the sabbath and was even calling God His own Father making Himself equal with God.*" The Jews were not happy and tried all the harder to kill Jesus. The Jews had really spoiled the Sabbath, adding to God's principles a mass of trivial rules which controlled the lives of every religious Jew. And with Jesus making claims of God as His father, they were even more enraged! In the next section (vv19-47) we see Jesus explaining His unique relationship with His Father. It is because of this relationship with the Father those who believe in Him become part of the family of God. Indeed, all who believe in His name, that is it; have the right to become "children of God" (John 1:12). And with this comes access to "*our Lord's healing power*".

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1) Why do you think, John adds the account of the healing of the "official's son"?

What purpose does this incident serve in John's overall argument for who Jesus is?

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2) John 4:43-54; what was outstanding about the reaction of the official to Jesus words?

What happened to his household?

**3) Is there encouragement for us in this?**

**What is your view on “*our Lord’s healing power*”?**

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**4) What has this chapter taught you about being sensitive and responsive to people around you who are in need?**

**How could you reach out to someone who has been rejected by the world and offer Jesus’ love?**

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**5) John 5:1-23; how exactly did Jesus cure the paralytic man? What was significant about this?**

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**6) How did the Jews react to this remarkable miracle? Why?**

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**7) In what ways has Jesus made you well and whole?**

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**8) What verse shows that Jesus revealed Himself more fully to this man?**

**What do we learn of the way Jesus worked?**

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**9) What insights do verses 19-23 give us into the Father’s devotion to the Son?**

**The Son’s dependence on the Father?**

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**10) John 5:24-47; what can we claim when we put our trust in Christ? When does this begin?**

**What was lacking in their study of the scriptures?**

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**11) What witnesses does Jesus call forward to testify on His behalf, and how does their testimony validate His claims (v.31-40)?**

**What steps can you take to avoid slipping into the kind of religion that is outwardly pious but inwardly bankrupt?**

**According to this section what factors influence our verdict for or against Jesus?**