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By Dan Maines

John 5

John 5:1-2

After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porticoes.

† The pool of Bethesda was near the temple, used for healing traditions. Archaeology confirms a pool with five porticoes in Jerusalem, validating John's detail.

John 5:3-5

In these porticoes lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed. Now a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

† The man's long affliction highlights his hopelessness. The pool attracted the desperate, but no healing came until Christ arrived.

John 5:6-7

Jesus, upon seeing this man lying there and knowing that he had already been in that condition for a long time, said to him, "Do you want to get well?" 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."

† Jesus asked a penetrating question. The man thought healing required human help or superstition. Christ revealed true healing came from Him alone.

John 5:8-9

Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was a Sabbath on that day.

† Christ healed instantly, with authority. His command defied Jewish Sabbath traditions, creating controversy.

John 5:10-12

So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is a Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick it up and walk'?"

† Legalism blinded them to the miracle. They cared more for Sabbath rules than for a healed man.

† Josephus (Antiquities 16.2.3) records Jewish disputes about Sabbath regulations, showing how such traditions became burdensome.

John 5:13-15

But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd in that place. Later 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." The man went away, and informed the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

† Healing was not merely physical but pointed to spiritual renewal. Jesus warned of sin's consequences, greater than sickness.

John 5:16-18

For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on a Sabbath. But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, thereby making Himself equal with God.

† Jesus claimed divine authority. Equality with God was unmistakable, prompting Jewish leaders to plot His death.

† Philo, though using "Son of God" metaphorically, never equated a man with God. John shows Jesus uniquely claimed full equality.

John 5:19-20

Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, except what He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and

the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."

† The Son perfectly mirrors the Father's works. Unity of will and power proves divine identity.

John 5:21-23

"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

† Jesus declared power over life and judgment, reserved for God alone. Refusal to honor the Son is rejection of the Father.

John 5:24-25

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

† Eternal life is present for believers. Spiritual resurrection was already occurring through Christ's word.

† Augustine emphasized the present reality of passing from death to life through Christ.

John 5:26-27

"For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man."

† Jesus claimed divine self-existence and judgment authority. "Son of Man" echoed Daniel 7's vision of authority over all

nations.

John 5:28-29

"Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds to a resurrection of judgment."

† Jesus declared His authority over final resurrection and judgment. Both righteous and wicked face Him as Judge.

John 5:30

"I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

† His judgment is perfect, not self-seeking, aligned with the Father's will.

John 5:31-32

"If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who testifies about Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true."

† Jesus appealed to divine testimony, not self-assertion.

John 5:33-35

"You have sent messengers to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was the lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light."

† John the Baptist was a lamp, but Christ is the true Light.

John 5:36-38

"But the testimony I have is greater than the testimony of John;

for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me, He has testified about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. Also you do not have His word remaining in you, because you do not believe Him whom He sent."

† Miracles and the Father's testimony confirmed Jesus' mission, but unbelief blinded the leaders.

John 5:39-40

"You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me; and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life."

† Scripture's purpose is to point to Christ. Knowing the text without faith in Him brings no life.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal intense study of Scripture in John's day, yet without recognition of Christ.

John 5:41-44

"I do not receive glory from people; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you accept glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?"

† The leaders sought human praise rather than God's glory. Pride blinded them to truth.

John 5:45-47

"Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me: for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you

believe My words?"

† Jesus closed by affirming that Moses testified of Him. Their rejection of Christ proved unbelief in Moses.

† Irenaeus affirmed that all Scripture, including Moses, pointed to Christ as fulfillment.

How it applies to us today

† Christ has authority to give life and execute judgment.

† True worshipers follow Scripture to Christ, not to empty ritual.

† Eternal life begins now, by hearing and believing the Son.

† We must seek God's glory rather than human praise.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Archaeology – Bethesda pool with five porticoes

† Josephus, Antiquities 16.2.3 – Jewish Sabbath disputes

† Philo of Alexandria – Son of God language not equal to deity

† Augustine, Tractates on John – passing from death to life

† Daniel 7 – Son of Man vision

† Dead Sea Scrolls – Scripture study without Christ

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies – Moses writing of Christ

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