

JESUS, THE GIVER OF LIFE

BIBLE TEXT: John 5:1-47; Luke 7:11-16

LESSON 41 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (John 5:23)

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 5:1-47

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

³ In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

⁴ For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

⁵ And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

⁶ When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

⁷ The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

⁸ Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

⁹ And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

¹⁰ The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed.

¹¹ He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Jesus Christ, the Great Physician

1. The impotent man lies helpless for thirty-eight years, John 5:1-5.

2. There is no man to help him, John 5:6, 7;

Psalm 69:20

²⁰ Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked *for some* to take pity, but *there was* none; and for comforters, but I found none.

Psalm 22:11

¹¹ Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.

Psalm 107:11-13

¹¹ Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

¹² Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and *there was* none to help.

¹³ Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saved them out of their distresses.

Isaiah 41:28

²⁸ For I beheld, and *there was* no man; even among them, and *there was* no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.

Isaiah 63:5

⁵ And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

3. Obedient effort is required, John 5:8;

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴ Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

4. Healing is immediate, John 5:9;

Isaiah 65:24

²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

5. Power is given to "sin no more," John 5:14;

John 8:11

¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Matthew 9:6

⁶ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

II Jesus, the Son of God

1. He does the works of the Father, John 5:17-21;

John 9:4

⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 10:37, 38

³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.

2. He is the final Judge of the world, John 5:22, 27-30;

II Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done,

walk.

¹² Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

¹³ And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in *that* place.

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

¹⁵ The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

¹⁶ And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

¹⁹ Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

²⁰ For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

²¹ For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

²³ That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father

whether *it be* good or bad.

3. He is equal in honour with God, John 5:23;

Philippians 2:6

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

4. He is able to impart everlasting life, John 5:24-26;

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

III The Evidence of the Divinity of Christ

1. John the Baptist reveals Christ, John 5:31-36;

John 1:15, 29

¹⁵ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

2. The works of Christ witness for Him, John 5:36;

John 14:10, 11

¹⁰ Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

¹¹ Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

John 10:36-38

³⁶ Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.

3. God the Father acknowledges His Son, John 5:37, 38;

Matthew 3:17

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 17:5

⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

4. The Old Testament Scriptures testify of Him, John 5:39;

Isaiah 53

¹ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

which hath sent him.

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

²⁶ For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

²⁷ And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

³¹ If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

³² There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

³³ Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

³⁴ But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

³⁵ He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

³⁶ But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 2:7

⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

5. Moses wrote of Him, John 5:46, 47;

Deuteronomy 18:15

¹⁵ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

IV Raising the Widow's Son at Nain

1. The compassion of Christ is revealed, Luke 7:11-13;

John 11:35

³⁵ Jesus wept.

2. The resurrection power of Christ is demonstrated, Luke 7: 14, 15;

John 11:43, 44

⁴³ And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

3. The people give God the glory, Luke 7:16.

NOTES:

"After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem." It is believed that the feast mentioned was the second Passover of Jesus' ministry. Jesus, no doubt, had two reasons for going to Jerusalem to the feasts: to fulfil the Law, and to proclaim the Gospel. At the three yearly pilgrimage feasts of the Jews (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles) great throngs went to Jerusalem from all parts of the known world. Jesus took this opportunity to extend the Gospel invitation to those from far and near. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

The troubling of the waters, and the healings that took place afterward, were unusual; but God is not constrained to work according to any particular pattern in performing miracles. Jesus used various methods in healing the sick during His ministry. This time He just spoke the word and the sick man was made whole. There is no reason to doubt any of the miracles of God, no matter how they are performed. The waters of this pool had no medicinal value, which could effect a cure any more than the waters of the Jordan could cure Naaman of his leprosy. It is God Who heals.

In the impotent man we have an example of the helpless state of humanity. There is an old proverb in the world that the Lord helps those who help themselves. Jesus came to help those who

Father hath sent me.

³⁷ And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

³⁸ And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

⁴¹ I receive not honour from men.

⁴² But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

⁴⁴ How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?

⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust.

⁴⁶ For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

⁴⁷ But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Luke 7:11-16

¹¹ And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

¹² Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said

could not help themselves. Everyone who gets anything from God has to come to the place where he realises his inability to help himself. So long as a man feels that he can help himself he will not, as a rule, go to the Lord for help. When a man realises his utter helplessness and turns from himself to put his trust in God he is in a good place to receive something from God. When Jesus said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" the impotent man answered, "Sir I have no man, ..." "This man suffered for thirty-eight years and had no man to help him. How like the song, which tells us that there was no arm to save and that there was no eye to pity until Jesus, our Saviour, from Glory came down. Even if there had been a man to help him into the pool, it was only God Who could make him whole. Worldly friends may be able to help us in some situations, but only Jesus can save us. This man needed salvation, for Jesus said unto him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." His disease was, no doubt, brought on through sin. Jesus healed him, forgave him, and gave him power to "sin no more."

"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." This verse gives two reasons why the Jews sought to kill Jesus. First, according to their traditions He broke the Sabbath. What He did was not contrary to the Law, but to the traditions of the Jews. Jesus told the Jews, "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). See also **John 7:23, 24**
²³ If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? ²⁴ Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. Secondly, He made Himself equal with God. He was within His rights in so doing, for He was God. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (Philippians 2:6). (See also **John 1:1, 14** ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.)

The Jews were not concerned with the fact that this man had been made whole -- that a mighty miracle had been wrought. Their only concern was, Who had dared defy their tradition and tell the man, "Take up thy bed, and walk," on the Sabbath day?

Christ is the source of life. Eternal life can be had only through Him. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:12). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). As proof of His resurrection power He called Lazarus from the grave.

Eternal life means more than eternal existence. All mankind exist eternally. "All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever" (Revelation 14:11). Eternal life is fellowship with God. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). In order to know God one must be born again. Eternal life is freedom from sin and condemnation.

unto her, Weep not.

¹⁴ And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

¹⁵ And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

¹⁶ And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1, 2). Freedom from condemnation is obtained through belief in the Son of God. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

Both the physical and spiritual resurrections are set forth in this chapter. The spiritual resurrection: "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." A future physical resurrection: "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Paul tells us that every man shall come forth "in his own order" (I Corinthians 15:23). The dead in Christ shall rise first at his coming. (See **I Thessalonians 4:16, 17** ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.) The unsaved dead shall not be raised until after the millennium (**Revelation 20:5** ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.). Then they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15** ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.).

Luke 7:11-16 gives an example of the resurrection power in the voice of Jesus. He spoke to the dead, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise" -- and the dead man arose.

The Jews of His day did not believe in Christ, but it was not for want of evidence. His works alone are sufficient proof of His divinity. He said, "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him" (John 10:37, 38).

John the Baptist attested Christ's divinity when he cried out, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The testimony of the Scriptures concerning Christ is proof of His divinity. "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (Psalm 2:7). Moses, in whom the Jews declared their trust, wrote, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deuteronomy 18:15). On two occasions the Father spoke from Heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). See also **Matthew 17:5** ⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

In spite of all the evidences of the divinity of Christ, the Jews, as a whole, failed to believe in Him. Jesus told them of another

who should come "in his own name" whom they would receive. This, no doubt, has reference to the coming of the Antichrist. (See **Revelation 13:8** ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.)

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Jews seek to kill Jesus?
2. Find other miracles that Jesus did on the Sabbath.
3. Enumerate incidents when people were raised from the dead in Bible times.
4. Give a Bible definition of eternal life.
5. Name the different evidences of the authority of Christ.
6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "The Son can do nothing of himself"?
7. Find an Old Testament verse that parallels John 5:29.
8. Find passages of Scripture outside the lesson, which tell of Christ as the final Judge of the world.
9. Why did Jesus raise the son of the widow at Nain?