



Desire
to be
Made Whole

John 5:1-17



A photograph of a stone wall with a green-bordered plaque. The plaque is made of light-colored tiles and contains the word "Bethesda" written in a black Gothic script. The wall is made of rough, greyish-brown stone blocks.

Bethesda



John 5:1-17 – **1** After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. **3** In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, **4** for an angel of the Lord went down at certain

seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted. **5** A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. **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?”
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.” **8** Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” **9** Immediately the man became well,

and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. **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.’” **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. **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.” **15** The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. **16** For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17** But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”



A dark, moody photograph of a person splashing water, with a circular text overlay at the top. The person is in the center, splashing water upwards, creating a large, dynamic splash. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric. The overall tone is dramatic and artistic.

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The paralyzed man was
focused on the water
instead of Jesus.

18 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, making Himself equal with God. **19** Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the

Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. **20** 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 marvel. **21** For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. **22** For not even the Father judges anyone, but He

has given all judgment to the Son, **23** so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. **24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he 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.

A dark, moody photograph of water splashing, with a central circular graphic containing text. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly water or a wet surface, with a central splash of water. The splash is captured in a way that shows the individual droplets and the overall shape of the water as it moves upwards. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the edges of the water droplets against the dark background. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

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The Pharisees were
focused on tradition
instead of Jesus.

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Where is my focus?