

## 4-15-2018 Life At Work.mp4

[00:00:17] Eman Good morning church.

[00:00:21] Good morning. Good morning y'all. Here in Baker and everyone over in the sanctuary of my on I think I'm on OK in selling it. So yes I just want to highlight something that is in your worship folder. I mentioned this last Sunday and it is the alpha class. Are we sure that I'm on. I don't. I can talk loud. But there we go. Come out. I had to crank it up. What does it mean to follow Jesus I just want to highlight this for one more Sunday. It's an alpha class which we run periodically here at King Street. But I just want you to know this is starting up next week because it is a great opportunity for you and by you I mean one you may be here and you're not certain about everything that the Bible teaches and who is Jesus and how can I have faith. And why did Jesus die. You may be here today with those questions. This is a great interactive place to ask those questions and dig in. I also want to encourage you to think about this course if you want to just get more clear in your heart about how to share your faith and to be clear on the real basics of what it means to be a follower of Jesus so that starts 11 o'clock next Sunday. So let the church know this week if you're interested but I just wanted to really put a plug in for that class. So turn with me if you want in your Bibles. Two to John Chapter Five John Chapter Five are your handhelds were going to be looking at verses 1 through 30 this morning really digging in and just kind of to get our minds together. I wanted to share an article that I ran across this last week as I was thinking about what Jesus teaches us here in John Chapter 5 and kind of the way the action plays out in the article was entitled churches would be more popular if they stopped quote banging on about God. Sir Simon Jenkins says that's the title. Churches would be more popular if they stop banging on about God. And the article goes on to talk about churches versus cathedrals in primarily Europe and England. I think Sir Simon Jenkins is English. And if you were to travel Europe these days you would see these five six seven hundred year old beautiful cathedrals right. These structures built hundreds of years ago and apparently these days in Europe especially these structures to go to these cathedrals is more know it's more popular than going to a church a gathering of. And it says this church cathedrals appeal to the public's desire for a more spiritual less religious experience. Considering the popularity of cathedrals among the public he said quote There is something about cathedrals that draw you in which is not drawing people into churches. If you go to a cathedral now it's anonymous. Check this out. Says it's pillar worship pillar. So have a deli cathedral have these beautiful surround pillar and worship. No one shakes you by the hand no one says peace be upon you. I asked a cathedral canon or priest once why they're doing so well he said. Unlike churches we don't bang on about God. So that's heartbreaking isn't it. It's pathetic because you know yeah but yet here's why I thought about them because that's exactly what got Jesus in trouble.

[00:04:34] In the text that we're going to look at today people that lived in Jesus time they just wanted some kind of spiritual experience or they were seeking out some religious method. And Jesus came banging on about God and they didn't want to hear it. They didn't want to hear it. So let's look together at John Chapter 5. I'm just going to read this for you all right out of the NIV 30 verses but I want us to hear what's happening here and to hear the words of Christ. Sometime later Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate which is on the northern edge of the Old City of Jerusalem the wall of Jerusalem a pool spring fed pool which in Aramaic is called Bethel's da which means House House of Grace health house I'll set right House of Mercy and which is surrounded by five colored colonnades or pillar coverings here. A great number of disabled people use to lie the blind the lame the paralyzed one who was there had been an invalid paralyzed likely for thirty eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there he learned that he had been in this condition for a long time and he asked him Do you want to get well sir. The invalid replied I have no one to help me into the pool. When the water is stirred while I'm trying to get in someone else goes in ahead of me.

[00:06:16] Then Jesus said get up pick up your mat and walk at once the man was cured.

[00:06:26] He picked up his mat and he walked the day on which this took place was a Sabbath. And so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed. Wow check you out. Oh sorry about that. That's not what they said anyway. They said hey it's the Sabbath. The law forbids you to carry your mat.

[00:06:50] Wait what. Really.

[00:06:54] But he replied of a man who made me well told me pick up your mat and walk. So they asked him Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk. The man who was healed had no idea who it was for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him see you are well again. STOP SINNING or something worse may happen to you. The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well so because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them my father is always that his work to this very day and I too am working for this reason. They tried all the more to kill him. Not only was he breaking the Sabbath but he was even calling God his own father making himself equal with God. Jesus then gave them this answer Very truly I tell you the son can do nothing by himself he can do only what he sees his father doing because whatever the father does the son does also for the father loves the son and shows him all that he does. Yes and he will show him even greater works than these so that you will be amazed for just as the father raises the dead and gives them life. Even so the son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover the father judges no one but his entrusted all judgment to the son so that all may honor the son just as they honor the father. Whoever does not honor the son does not honor the father who sent him. Truly truly I tell you whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death into life. Very truly I tell you a time is coming indeed has now even come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who here will live for as the father has life in himself. So he has granted the son also to have life in himself and he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Don't be amazed at this for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out. Those who have done what is good will rise to live in those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned by myself. Jesus said I can do nothing. I judge only as I hear and my judgment is just for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

[00:09:57] Wow amen. Word of the Lord.

[00:10:00] We have to keep in mind whenever we whatever we read and John we always have to keep in mind what John. I use this language is doing in this gospel and why what what is he doing. What's this is not by any stretch just kind of a random collection of events in the life of Christ. No there is a very specific purpose in the order and in the inclusion of what John shares with this here fact I want to bring it back to why Jesus John tells us performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples which I have not written here in John but these are written they are not recorded in this book so that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Son of God. That's something that happens in our hearts and our minds that we have faith in God that we believe that Jesus is God that we believe that Jesus loves me and is my Redeemer my Christ came to rescue me and that by believing I might enjoy life experience a life in his name so we see John saying I have given these signs in fact seven signs are in John between chapters to end Chapter 12. We've seen two of them already in Chapter 2 Jesus turned the water into wine. That was the first sign in Chapter 4 as we looked at last Sunday we see Jesus healing the royal official's son from a distance or a distance healing. He said Go Your son will be well and sure enough it happened. And the man in his household believed were looking today at the third sign that Jesus gives them we see in Chapter 6. Two signs one is the feeding of the 5000 followed by Jesus walking on the water and then in

chapter 9 we see Jesus much like he heals the paralyzed man. Today in this text he heals a man born blind. So a man 38 years paralyzed and a man born blind in chapter 9. And then in Chapter 11 Jesus then raises Lazarus who was his good friend in fact from the dead. So these are seven signs that we see in in the Gospel of John and we've already looked at two of them. These two actually took place up north up in Kana in Galilee. And I made a point to show you last Sunday that that they kind of form a three chapter section where Jesus is up in the north. And by that here's how I want you to think of it think of New York City and upstate New York. Right. Two very different both in New York but you don't have to go all that far 80 miles out of New York City. When you start moving into the Hudson Valley and up into upstate. Very different. That's Galilee and Jerusalem Jerusalem as is the headquarters. It's where all of the action is where all the religious leaders are it's. It's where the government's at it's all of that. And you go up north into Galilee and it's almost backwoods. That's how the Judeans of Jerusalem viewed the north. And so Cana was just a small little village in Galilee where Jesus turns the water into wine and Chapter 2 and we see what he did here and Cana was the first of his signs through which he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him and then last week also in Kana in Galilee. This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea into Galilee. So this official and his whole family believe let me tell you kind of what I want you to see in these first two signs just see the fact that they're a little out of the way. They're not drawing any major attention to Jesus. You know we've got the disciples building in their faith. We've got this royal official and his family coming to faith but this is not I mean if you put this on a seismograph in terms of an earthquake it's hardly even a tremor in terms of what was felt throughout the nation. But we now come to the third sign healing the paralyzed man. And here is the verse. Chapter 5 Verse 1 sometime later. So it separates Chapter 4 from Chapter 5 5 through 10 is now a new section that we're really going to dig into sometime later. Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Well it's due south. But whenever you go to Jerusalem you always go up in the Gospels because it is the high place if you will it's its center stage. So some time later Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. There were a number of feasts and festivals throughout the Jewish calendar every year four to be exact. And so it was like holidays they would the Jews would go up to Jerusalem and and and enjoy these feasts and these holidays. So that's what Jesus is doing now. Here's what I want you to see in this that we're now entering into a new phase in his ministry where Jesus in many ways is sailing into the eye of the storm. OK. Basically everything from here on out is going to be sailing into the storm which is exactly what Jesus meant to do. It is on purpose. So Jesus then goes into Jerusalem and he singles this man out. Look back at verses 4 and 5. This this man lying there have been there 38 years life expectancy for most males in this culture was 40. So this man had been there really an entire lifetime in that culture. Thirty eight years. He's lying there. At this particular spot where there was this pool I've actually had the opportunity to visit where archaeologists are almost certain the pool of Bethesda was just north of of the temple and you know they've dug down and they've found the remnants even of these colonnades. And so what apparently happened was a spring would kind of gurgle up stir the waters from time to time more than others. And it was believed that if you got into the water. I don't know if it worked or not. No but that if you got into the water first you were healed. So Jesus sees this man lying there he finds out that he's been in this condition thirty eight years and so Jesus focuses attention his attention on this man and he asks him a question Jesus over and over again asks this question of people what do you want. Do you want to get well. Is this something you desire. To which the man says Well you know sir I don't have anyone to help me. And you'd think he would just say yes right. But no he says and OK we got to get inside his mind and he's literally thinking my only hope is in this water. So I don't have anyone to help me while I'm trying to get in someone else always goes down ahead of me which I guess in some respects I would call it not a terribly impressive answer but that's kind of where his mind is at. And then Jesus versus eight and nine says to him get up pick up your mat and walk I'm going to come back to this phrase pick up your mat because honestly it's a little redundant. Get up. You'd think you would say get up and walk. Get up and walk. But he adds this little detail that if you're just reading through it you're going to miss as being on important but it's in fact what becomes kind of the central trigger of this whole chapter. Get up pick up your mat and walk out

once the man was cured. He picked up his mat and walked and just kept walking because he didn't even know who it was that had just done this for him. Down to verse 13 the man who was healed had no idea who just did this for him now OK to give them the benefit of the doubt. Maybe Jesus healed him and then quickly ducked out. I don't know but he didn't even find out. This is curious that he didn't even find out who had just done this for him. No idea who it was for Jesus slipped away into the crowd that was there later Jesus finds him at the temple and again approaches him and says See you're well again. But I think we ought to look at this one of the commentators I'll show you in a moment calls this a half healing. His body is healed but not his soul. Because he says Jesus says stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.

[00:19:37] Wow.

[00:19:38] STOP SINNING or something worse may happen.

[00:19:43] The man went away not sorrowful not glad not repentant. He went away and threw Jesus under the bus. When he did he told the Jewish leaders it was Jesus who made them well. Now I got to say Mom my whole life I haven't had that negative of an opinion about this man. I mean we have to have a lot of compassion for him. But it is interesting that as I read through a lot of commentaries he does not come out in the best of light which when you really look at it. BRUCE MILNE In his commentary said the man does not appear in good light in a good light in this story either before or after his healing. A timely reminder that physical healing in itself is no guarantee of spiritual healing. We definitely see that being freed from our affliction may not lead to a godly or or better life. Frederick Bruner said he called this whole passage Jesus sabbath day half healing right. It didn't. The soul wasn't Neil's body was of the coldness the heart to like half dead man. Oh I didn't quite see it that way but nonetheless no matter how you view it the healing is not the focus of this story. OK this healing is what come on. It's a sign. It's one of the seven signs it's pointing to a greater truth. That's really what we need to see here this healing what Jesus did is pointing to a greater truth and that greater truth is simply stated This Jesus is God's son Jesus is God himself and Jesus is life. That's the greater truth. That's what's being told here. That's why John includes this event as a pointer to who Jesus is. So let's go back and pick up this phrase pick up your mat. I said right it's easy to miss that. Pick up your mat. Get up. Pick up your mat and walk. So the man picked up his mat. Well this event literally of him picking up his think of a yoga mat or whatever he was laying on whatever or whatever cushion that he had been on for 38 years. Jesus was very specific to say pick that up take it with you. The man did that and this event becomes a spark or to kind of use the metaphor of dominoes right. This Domino hits that domino hits and it begins this series of events the day on which this took place was a Sabbath. Of course Jesus knew what he was doing he did this very intentionally on a Sabbath. And so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed. Hey wait a minute. It's the Sabbath the law of what do you do carrying your mat without getting into too much detail the Jew the Jewish leaders the Jewish people of that day had layer upon layer upon layer of rules that they had to follow. And apparently one of them was you weren't allowed to carry a bedroll on the Sabbath day law forbids you. But he replied. Wait a minute. It's not my fault. The man who made me well told me pick up your mat. Right. I told you it becomes way more prominent than you would think. And so they said to him who told you to do this. So verse 16 because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. So what we then start to see is this whole concept of of working. So this man was guilty of carrying his bedroll which was the guilt of carrying of working. He was breaking the law but Jesus inhaling him was also what working he was working to heal him. And this is when they are now the Jewish leaders are all over Jesus for working on the Sabbath. And I want you to look at Verse 17 in his defense. Jesus said to them see what I want you to see is all of this is leading to this moment. This sign was very intentionally performed by Jesus on a Sabbath. Jesus picked this man out and the dominoes fell to the place that in Verse 17 court is in session. That's how I want you to see this. That's how we need to see this. This is now a trial and Jesus in First Verse 17 makes his defense he

represents himself if you will. And he said to them my father is always at his work to this very day. Now what I want you to see in that is they would have understood that God so we were not part of this culture. But but this is how they would have heard this. They understood that on the Sabbath God the Father worked. His work was the work of sustaining the universe. His work was the work of mercy. They believed that God the father worked on the Sabbath. So Jesus said Yes my father is always at his work to this very day to day. And I too am working. OK this is what tipped the scales. God the father works on the Sabbath. Jesus then said I work on the Sabbath and they immediately put the two together and understood the math Jesus was saying I am God I am God. The charge just went from a felony C. They were persecuting him I don't know what that means but they were honing in on him they were attacking him. They were I don't know maybe trying to seize him whatever person whatever persecution looked like they were they were intent on doing it. Maybe taking him into custody I don't know. But the charge just now went from a felony to a capital offense that is punishable by death. Because look at verse 18 Verse 18 says that for this reason they then tried all the more to kill him right then and there they begin. This is this is now really to set the stage for the rest of the Gospel of John. It went from a felony to a capital offense. I appreciate what C.S. Lewis has to say about what's happening here said this and Mere Christianity he said in the mouth of any speaker who is not God. These words would imply what I can only regard as silliness and conceit unrivaled by any character in history.

[00:27:02] Wow that is so true.

[00:27:06] This can be viewed as nothing more than silliness and conceit by any speaker in human history.

[00:27:14] If they're not God you must make up your make your choice Either this man was was and is the son of God or else a madman or something worse. You know what. This right here this. This tip of the spear if you will is happening over and over and over again right here right now today in our world in our culture people determining who is Jesus who is he. Do I just want to go and sit in a in a beautiful cathedral and worship the pillars and hear some music and meditate. Don't give me anything about God. Don't bang on about God. I don't want to hear it. You see we have to make a choice C.S. Lewis was an atheist early in his life and yet he looked at passages like this and him like us have to make a choice either this man was and is the son of God or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool. You can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God and this event. This trial sets the stage for a sermon and I read it for you. Verses 19 down. Well it actually I'm ending it today at 13. Next Sunday we're going to keep going and look at the second half of his sermon. But what this is really the it's called Jesus divinity sermon what does that mean. That means that Jesus is claiming himself to be God.

[00:29:00] So we think of this in light of John one which begins in the beginning was the word and the word was God and the word was with God and the word was God. He is the light of the world he created. John begins his gospel by giving testimony to who he knew Jesus to be. But here in John 5 Jesus himself claims equality with God. Equality saying I and the father am one.

[00:29:30] I can do nothing without the father's help in fact the father has given me the power to judge all human beings and what we see here in John 5 in this sermon is the glory of God the majesty of God. We see life being revealed in fact look at verses 24 and 25 just to highlight a few verses of this divinity sermon. Very truly I tell you and let me remind you this is John writing these things for right here right now. This isn't for an audience 2000 years ago. This is right here right now. Very truly I tell you whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me believes the father has eternal life and will not be judged.

[00:30:26] Will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

[00:30:35] When does that happen. When do we cross over from death to life when we believe when we make this decision conscious decision in our heart that we believe that Jesus is the son of God. Truly I tell you a time is coming and has now come right here right now.

[00:30:55] When the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who here will live. Church we have the choice right now. We're hearing God's word you're hearing God's word. The question I want to ask are you listening to God's voice.

[00:31:18] Do you hear the voice of God calling you to believe to trust the people in this story wanted to silence him. They threw it out like it was nothing they wanted to kill his voice hear God's word.

[00:31:35] Listen to his voice and believe I've written these things John said.

[00:31:40] So you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Son of God and that by believing you might experience life in his name. I want to ask you to join with me in prayer right now because Jesus we come into this moment.

[00:32:01] This place this time right here God with many of us with very heavy hearts. Many of us with trials in fact all of us with stuff that we're dealing with. Lord Jesus in the same way that this man was lying there for thirty eight years.

[00:32:23] And Jesus you saw him you approached him and you asked him Do you want to get well Lord Jesus this isn't some piece of fiction. This really happened and it's happening right here right now because your voice through your word is asking us the same question. Do you want to be well. Do you want to experience healing and life. Do you want to know joy. Do you want to be restored.

[00:33:00] And Jesus we see in this account that it wasn't just his body. Yes you brought healing to his body but that was just half of it. Your heart for him was his heart. His soul because you pressed way beyond a physical healing.

[00:33:14] And you said to him stop sinning stop sinning and go and live and walk and my grace Jesus you're speaking us to us right here right now. And in this moment or Jesus we just want to say to you we believe I believe I believe you are the Messiah.

[00:33:40] I believe you are the son of God. I believe you died on the cross for my sins.

[00:33:45] I believe that in you I have forgiveness of sin or Jesus. I believe you are the way truth and life I give you my heart give you my all. Or I give you fanks. Come and fill me. Touch Me Heal Me. I pray in Jesus name Amen Amen. Let's stand and let's give glory to God.