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## Healing the Paralytic, John 5:1-18

By Aaron Shamp

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### Introduction

- C. S. Lewis quote.<sup>1</sup> Jesus clearly shows us that he is God at work.
  - How can people believe that a man can be God? Is the Christian church only made up of people who are more gullible?
    - The disciples would say that the evidence supports their verdict. What is the evidence?

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### His Claim

- How did the original audience interpret Jesus' words?
  - In vs. 18, they saw a claim that Jesus were equal with God.
    - They did not believe that God needed a Sabbath rest. He was continually at work. Jesus is stepping away from what the Sabbath meant for man and into what it means for God. He is saying that he doesn't need Sabbath.
    - C. S. Lewis: "He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He never produced that affect upon the people who actually met him. He produced mainly three affects: hatred, terror, adoration." Whereas many in popular culture and even certain churches, he is met with mild approval.
- The battle for belief today doesn't revolve around the miracles but around Christ.
  - Vs. 10-12 would never had been written in fiction! Notice how the man called Jesus "the man who healed me" and the Pharisees called him "the man who told you to pick up your mat."
    - There will be no rewards for those who turn a blind eye to God's works in the world.

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## His Knowledge

- Jesus knows this man's heart.
  - In John 1:47 he show Nathanael that he hold knowledge that humans cannot know. In John 4, he shows the Samaritan woman that he knows her life.
    - John is creating a trail to show us that Jesus sees through people. He sees that the invalid's problem is not his sickness but his sinfulness.

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## His Deliverance

- Indulged sin enslaves us and makes our souls sick.
  - The gospel is the message of a deliverer who meets a helpless man and sets him free.
- Jesus didn't ask the man if he will believe in him but he asked if he wanted to be healed.
  - Do you want to get well? Our sin is often precious to us.

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## Conclusion

- I have come in my Father's name, and yet you don't accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44 How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don't seek the glory that comes from the only God? -- John 5:43-44 (CSB)

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperOne), 51.