

As you read...

John 4 ended with the miraculous healing of the official's son in Galilee. As we cross into John 5, Jesus has made His way to Jerusalem where is quick to perform yet another miracle, healing a paralyzed man and giving him the ability to walk. Once again, Jesus has given people much to talk about.

Some of the Jews were not happy with how this took place. They were more concerned that the law was broken (because you were not permitted to work on the Sabbath—even if the work is a miracle) than in awe of the miracle that this man was now walking.

Eventually these Jews catch up with Jesus. When they do, they become gravely concerned at the claim Jesus makes concerning the works He has been doing. Jesus says to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.”

But what exactly is the work that the Father and Jesus are doing? The answer to that question has a profound impact on what we understand God is primarily doing in this world, through the work of the Holy Spirit by means of His Word and His Church.

So we ask again: what exactly is the work that the Father and Jesus are doing? Verse 21 delivers our answer: “Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them *life*, so the Son also gives *life* to whom He wants.”

Our God is in the business raising the dead and giving them *life*. As you read, hold on to the weight of this incredibly powerful reality.

Read [John 5:1-23](#)

The Third Sign: Healing the Sick

¹ After this, a Jewish festival took place, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² By the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool, called Bethesda in Aramaic, which has five colonnades. ³ Within these lay a large number of the disabled—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

⁵ One man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the disabled man answered, “I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ “Get up,” Jesus told him, “pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.

Now that day was the Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.”

¹¹ He replied, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² “Who is this man who told you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk?’” they asked. ¹³ But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

Honoring the Father and the Son

¹⁷ Jesus responded to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.” ¹⁸ This is why the Jews began trying 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 to God.

¹⁹ Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. ²¹ And just as the Father raises the dead and gives them **life**, so the Son also gives **life** to whom he wants. ²² The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ so that all people may

honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Questions

1. Place yourself into the story by pretending you were the man who was healed.
 - Before Jesus heals you (verses 6-7), how would you have reacted to Jesus' question? Why?
 - After Jesus heals you (9-13), how do you feel about the response of the Jews to your walking? Why?
2. Jesus makes an incredibly powerful claim in verse 21: He gives life. From what you've read so far in John's gospel, how would you explain what Jesus means when He says that He gives life?
3. As we continue this journey of discovering life in Jesus and His Word, what are some things that seem to be killing you or causing you to feel spiritually dead? These could be sins, doubts, or lies that we often hear or tell ourselves.

A moment to pray.

Generous Father, You give life. Help me to hold tightly to the life that You give. Forgive me for the sins that have been destroying me, renew the faith you have given to me, and protect me from the lies that I'm hearing today. Replace those things that are killing me in my heart and mind with the life You pour out by the Holy Spirit through Your Word today. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.