



SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Divine Appointment in Prolonged Crying, Part 1

John 5:1-9 | Jun 21, 2026



John 5:1-17 - ¹ After this 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, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁴ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁵ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁶ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁸ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. Where does this event take place (vv. 1-2)?

What was the condition of the people gathered there (v. 3)?

2. How long had the man been an invalid (v. 5)?

What does that tell us about the severity and duration of his suffering (v. 5)?

3. According to verse 6, what two things are specifically said about Jesus before He spoke to the man?

4. What question did Jesus ask the man (v.6)?

How did the man respond (v. 7)?

5. What contrasts do you see between how others may have viewed the man and how Jesus viewed him?

6. What repeated themes about suffering, waiting, and hope stand out in this passage and Sunday’s message?

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. Why do you think John emphasizes that the man had suffered for 38 years? What does this reveal about prolonged suffering?

2. Bethesda means “House of Mercy,” yet it was filled with misery. What does this teach us about the fallen world and where true mercy is found?
