

## **People Jesus Met, part 36 – The Man at the Pool of Bethesda (Redefining Jesus)**

There are 2 key places where every false religion disagrees with true biblical Christianity.

Difference #1 – When it comes to the plan of salvation

#1 – The holiness of God

#2 – The sinfulness of man (in his essential nature)

#3 – The inability of man to save himself

#4 – The unmerited grace of God (by which God offers us salvation as a “free gift” through the atoning work of Jesus Christ)

In contrast to the biblical plan of salvation, every other plan of salvation in every other religion is based on human works or merit in some form or another.

Difference #2 – When it comes to the person of Jesus Christ

“After these things, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.” John 5:1

“Now there is in Jerusalem (near the Sheep Gate) a pool, which in Aramaic is called ‘Bethesda.’”  
John 5:2a

“And this pool is surrounded by five covered porticoes.” John 5:2b

“The more they dig out of the ground, the more the Bible proves to be right.”

“Here, a great number of people with disabilities used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed – waiting for the moving of the waters.” John 5:3

“For an angel of the Lord would come to the pool at certain seasons and stir up the water; and whoever stepped into the water first was made well from whatever affliction they had.” John 5:4

“Now, there was a man there who had been unable to walk for thirty-eight years.” John 5:5

“When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, Jesus asked him: ‘Do you want to get well?’” John 5:6

If Jesus heals this man, he will be forced to tell his story to everyone he meets and to become an unabashed witness for Jesus Christ.

This is what Jesus was really asking this man: whether he was willing to stand for Christ, without compromise or fluctuation, as part of the cost of his healing.

“Then the man answered, ‘Sir, I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else gets in before me.’” John 5:7

“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Arise, take up your pallet and walk.’ And immediately, the man became well and picked up his pallet and began to walk.” John 5:8

“Now the day on which all this took place was a Sabbath.” John 5:9

“Therefore, the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, ‘It is the Sabbath; you are not allowed to carry your pallet.’” John 5:10

“But the man replied, ‘The man who healed me said to me, “Take up your pallet and walk.”’” John 5:11

“So the Jewish leaders asked him, ‘Who is this fellow who told you to pick up your pallet and walk?’”  
John 5:12

*“But the man who was healed did not yet know who it was; for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd who was there.” John 5:13*

*“Later, Jesus found him at the Temple and said to him, ‘Behold, you have become well. Do not sin anymore, lest something worse happen to you.’” John 5:14*

*“Then the man went away and began telling the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.” John 5:15*

*“So, because Jesus was doing things like this on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders were persecuting Him.” John 5:16*

*“Jesus said to them, ‘My Father works on this day . . .’” John 5:17a*

*“. . . and I work on this day also.” John 5:17b*

*“For this reason, the Jewish leaders were seeking all the more to kill Jesus, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but also because He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” John 5:18*

*This encounter in John chapter 5 does not end with everybody being excited that Jesus had healed a poor, helpless man – but with the Jewish leaders being more determined than ever to kill the Lord Jesus Christ because they could not stomach how Jesus had defined Himself.*

*So What?*

*What was the most radical single thing that the Lord Jesus Christ ever claimed about Himself?*

*The most outrageous single claim Jesus ever made is that He was Jehovah God Himself in human flesh.*

*“. . . He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” John 5:18*

*“Who do you make Yourself out to be?” John 8:53*

*“Jesus replied, ‘Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it and was glad.’” John 8:56*

*“The rabbis said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?’” John 8:57*

*“‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said, ‘before Abraham was I AM.’” John 8:58*

*“Suppose I go back to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ – then what shall I tell them?” Exodus 3:13*

*“Then Jehovah said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that I AM has sent you.’” Exodus 3:14*

*“. . . before Abraham was I AM.” John 8:58*

*Jesus is claiming to be the great “I AM” of the Old Testament . . . Jehovah God Himself . . . wrapped in human flesh.*

*“At this, the rabbis picked up stones to stone Him.” John 8:59*

*“Jesus replied, ‘I and the Father are one.’ Therefore, the rabbis once again picked up stones to stone Him.” John 10:30, 31*

*“So Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of them are you stoning Me?’” John 10:32*

*“And they replied, ‘We are not stoning you for any of these miracles, but for blasphemy, because You, a mere man, claim to be God.’” John 10:33*

*"Then Phillip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be sufficient for us.'" John 14:8*

*"Then Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you this long, Phillip, and you still don't know who I am? He who has seen Me has seen the Father!'" John 14:9*

*"Jesus was authenticated with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead."  
Romans 1:4*

*Jesus' claim to be Jehovah God in human flesh is just as clear and unambiguous today as it was in the 1<sup>st</sup> century when He claimed it!*

*The one thing we cannot and must not allow people to do is to redefine Jesus!*

*Washington Post – October 25, 2007*

*"The news cheered opponents of the church. They have been lobbying city officials since the church announced in July that it had leased the Uptown on Sunday mornings."*

*"And parking isn't the only issue. The evangelical mission of the church has also turned off some residents of Cleveland Park, where a large synagogue stands two blocks from the Uptown. The church and Solomon are strong backers of Jews for Jesus."*

*"I have no doubt that there are people who are disturbed that an evangelical church is coming in here to proselytize." George Idelson, President, Cleveland Park Citizens Association*

*Michael Kahn, Programming Director – Harmon Theater*

*". . . only after I was assured by [my staff] that your church did not uphold any anti-gay or anti-abortion philosophy in its teachings."*

*"I certainly support your right to espouse any tenets in which you believe, but as a not-for-profit organization that has a large number of members of the GLBTG community, both on our staff and as members of our audience, I must respectfully decline your inclusion in our theater."*

*"McLean Bible Church's mission is to convert Jews and other 'non-churched' persons to enlarge and enrich their already enormous congregation. They are an arrogant, aggressively proselytizing, Bible-banging church that gives Christians everywhere a bad name."*

*"Tolerance is a virtue, but one is not obliged to tolerate everything and everybody. McLean Bible Church has earned my contempt. The Jewish community, in particular, will not assist this church in its mission to convert all of DC to its brand of arrogant Christianity. Let them play that game somewhere else."*

*"For it has been granted to us on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29*

*"Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10*