

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. Not all suffering is due to sin, but sin can bring about suffering
 - B. Duty and pettiness can hinder true ministry
 - C. True ministry will encounter opposition, even from among Christians
 - D. Spiritual sickness is worse than physical sickness
 - E. We cannot believe in God while ignoring God's son
- II. Introduction
 - A. John's Gospel is different from the other Synoptics; they provide a biographical synopsis of Jesus' life
 - B. John's Gospel is not as comprehensive as the others. In fact, nearly two-thirds of it (Chapters 12-21) covers the last week of Jesus' life
 - C. The next 6 chapters, Jesus will begin to face mounting opposition from the Jews (5-10)
 - D. Jesus will go from opposing (1-4) to being opposed (5-10)
 - E. Theme: The Rejection of Jesus the Messiah
- III. Exegesis
 - A. Sheep Gate and pool
 - 1. Goes back to Nehemiah 3:1. Located on the northern side of the city of Jerusalem. Near the temple. Named so because sheep were brought through it for sacrifice. It was consecrated by the priests.
 - 2. It contained two pools separated by a partition. They were fed by Artesian springs, which caused the disturbance of the water.
 - 3. That the angels stirred the water was merely the superstition of the people rather than the truth of God. The water was thought to have medicinal powers (vs. 4)
 - 4. Superstitious religion has no power to transform the truly needy
 - B. The invalid man
 - 1. The average man in antiquity lived an average of 40 years; thus, this man being an invalid for 38 years is even more remarkable
 - 2. Based on the question by Jesus, perhaps this man didn't want to be well.
 - a. Psychologists may assume that this man didn't want to be healed, hence the question by Jesus.
 - b. If this man is made whole after 38 years of paralysis, this could be a radical threat to this man's existence. He learned to depend on others to tend to his matters and his business because he has been helpless for 38 years. If Jesus makes him whole, no more handouts, no assistance. He will have to be productive. He will have to function in a society where he has been unable to be productive. – R.C. Sproul
 - c. There are folks who really don't want to get better because being better represents a threat they don't want to handle. Some people are satisfied in their paralyzed condition. The prospect of having a productive life threatens them.
 - d. How can you depend on Christ when someone always comes to your rescue?
 - C. The Rabbis
 - 1. They were more concerned about their "traditions" being broken than the miracle Christ performed
 - 2. Be careful not to add anything to Scripture and establish it as traditional rules
 - D. The wickedness of the invalid man
 - 1. The man now healed, instead of rejoicing in and witnessing about and proclaiming the glory of the Christ, blames Christ for him violating the Sabbath traditions of the rabbis
 - 2. He blames Jesus just as Adam blamed Eve
 - 3. Matthew 10:32 – the man was ashamed of Jesus

4. This man turned against Jesus because he had to be productive. Jesus told him what he did not want to hear – Stop sinning
5. “Stop sinning” – the unavoidable implication is that the bad thing that has already happened was occasioned by the sin which the person must not repeat
6. “Or something worse” indicates eternal judgment and damnation
7. There is something worse than being sick!
8. We are all guilty; unless we repent, we too will perish