

I. MERCY WHERESOEVER

A. Wherever Jesus Went

1. His Mercy was on display
 - a. Here we see Christ at the Pool of Bethesda
 - b. Literally “house of mercy”
 - c. The number five is the number of mercy
 - d. And here are five porches
 - e. Psalm 6:2 – “Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.”
2. His Grace was on display
 - a. We sing about it!
 - i. “Wonderful the matchless Grace of Jesus,
 - ii. Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
 - iii. Wonderful Grace, all sufficient for me, for even
 - iv. Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
 - v. All sufficient Grace for even me.
 - vi. Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
 - vii. Greater far than all my sin and shame
 - viii. O magnify the precious name of Jesus,
 - ix. PRAISE HIS NAME!
 - b. Grace is “unmerited favor”
 - i. It cannot be earned, or it isn’t grace
 - ii. It’s manners for a gentleman to offer his handkerchief to a lady, but it is GRACE from a king.
 - iii. How much more so from the Almighty God?
3. Mercy and Grace are an indispensable pair
 - a. We cannot be Saved without both
 - b. Mercy holds back the urgently due reward of our sin
 - c. Grace provides a means of escape through no merit of our own

B. Feast of the Jews

1. First, let’s just notice again that He went “up” to Jerusalem
 - a. I even caught some of the commentators I read say “down”
 - b. Yes, it was UP – John 2:13
 - c. Elevation matters when you walk
2. Secondly, Jesus kept the Law
 - a. When it was time to go up to the feast, He went UP to the feast
 - b. There were three high feasts that required all men to go
 - i. This was likely Passover
 - ii. If so, there were 4 Passovers during His ministry
 - iii. Therefore – over 3 years (3 ½ years would be interesting)

- c. Jesus kept the Law carefully. We should keep the Ordinances
- 3. Thirdly, and uniquely, the Gospel of John records miracles in Jerusalem
 - a. The other Gospels mostly tell of miracles in Galilee
 - b. John is a book written for converted Gentiles
 - i. You can see that in vs. 1
 - ii. That's why God adds little descriptive statements
 - c. Maybe it helps to remind us the Gospel came to the Jew first?

II. MERCY HOWSOEVER

A. Multitude of impotent folk

1. That isn't an exact number, but we can say more than 10? 20?
2. There were five porches (great coverings)
3. All within a stone's throw of the Temple!
4. Right by the sheep gate!
 - a. This gate would be where the shepherds (at Bethlehem, btw)
 - b. For those living far away, they could buy a lamb at market (vs. 2)
 - c. So many people busy in "serving the Lord"
 - i. And yet this one "has no man" to help him
 - ii. Oh, we need a burden for the lost
 - d. And isn't it natural for Jesus to be there at the sheep gate?
 - e. John 1:29 – "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
5. Proverbs 14:20 – "The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. (21) He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he."

B. Jesus Found One

1. There was a multitude searching the water of the pool
 - a. Eyes fixed in anticipation
 - b. Waiting for God to do something
 - c. And here He was, but they never noticed!
2. He didn't find Jesus
 - a. "Brother, tell us how you found Jesus"
 - b. "Oh! I love to tell that story, but you're mistaken!"
 - c. "How so?"
 - d. "Jesus was never lost – but I was!"
 - e. "He found ME!"
3. Jesus took the initiative
 - a. God came to Earth
 - b. So, we could go to Heaven
 - c. He did it all!
 - d. Romans 5:7-8 – "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

- C. A Certain Man (vs. 5)
 - 1. Laid there 38 years
 - a. Think about it! 8 years longer than Jesus had been on Earth
 - 2. Invalid, impotent, infirmity
 - a. Think about those words – all mean without Strength!
 - b. Unable to stand
 - 3. That’s a picture of me under the Law
 - a. Powerless! Helpless! Unable to stand before God!
 - b. The Law is Schoolmaster, but unable to Save!
 - 4. The Law helps least those who need Salvation most! (vs. 7)
 - a. The ones most able to get into the water
 - b. Were NOT the ones most crippled!
 - 5. He’d tried the “religion” of the pool of Bethesda for 38 years
 - a. And realized that he could not save himself (vs. 7)
 - b. Aren’t you glad that you had “a man?”
 - i. What do I mean?
 - ii. A preacher. A Sunday School teacher.
 - iii. A mother. A father. A friend.
 - iv. SOMEONE who told you about Jesus!

III. MERCY WHATSOEVER

- A. Blind, halt, withered (vs. 3)
 - 1. Sin is a terrible disease; it will make invalids of us all without treatment
 - 2. Sin blinds us to the Truth of God’s Word
 - a. Psalm 119:160 – “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”
 - 3. Sin cripples so we do not walk in God’s Ways
 - a. Romans 8:8 – “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”
 - 4. Sin withers us – we are too weak to save ourselves
 - a. Romans 8:3 – “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”
- B. Doesn’t matter what you’ve done!
 - 1. Many people try to say “I’m too far gone”
 - a. That is a lie from the devil!
 - b. There is only one sin which Jesus WILL not overcome
 - c. And that is rejecting Him!
 - d. That’s blaspheming the Holy Spirit – actually INSULTING the wooing of God’s Spirit as He points to His Holy Son
 - e. Trampling the Blood of Jesus underfoot

2. This man had been here for a “long time” (vs. 6)
 - a. He had been infirm for 38 – maybe his entire life
 - b. Jesus saw him lie and knew it had been that way for a “long time”
 - c. Long enough to become disgusted with trying to save himself
- C. Jesus saw it all!
 1. He saw him lie (vs. 6)
 2. He knows OUR infirmities too!

IV. MERCY WHOSOEVER

- A. Jesus was available for ALL of them
 1. But everyone else was concentrating on the waters
 2. Not that God that sent the angel (vs. 4)
 3. This was no fable or editorial note – this is God’s Word
- B. He asked a most important question (vs. 6)
 1. Do you wish to be Saved?
 - a. Some there may have said no... at least in their hearts
 - b. Some might have profited by begging – who knows?
 - c. But if anyone loves their sin, they won’t be Saved
 - d. Not can’t, but won’t – that is the purpose of repentance
 2. But I can’t do it myself!
 3. Jesus could have said, “Never mind all that. I already knew that before I created this world. That’s why I’m here.”
 4. But all He did say is, “Rise up, take up thy bed, and walk.” (vs. 8)
 5. Had this man ever walked before? Did he even know how?
 6. Doesn’t matter, he believed God on faith!
 7. Romans 10:17 – “ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 8. And HE (the very Word) was right there
- C. Immediately (vs. 9)
 1. There was POWER in what Jesus said!
 2. Rom 3:4a – “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;”
 3. Doesn’t matter what people say. Didn’t matter what the doctors said.
 4. Here was Dr. Jesus, and He HEALS the sin-sick soul!

V. BUT NOT MERCY WHENSOMEVER

- A. A certain season... (vs. 4)
 1. Genesis 6:3 – “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”
 2. Romans 1:28 – “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

B. Stirred up! (vs. 4)

1. The sin-sick soul must sometimes be stirred up and troubled
2. That is a picture of conviction in a person's heart
3. They need the Water of Life that only Jesus can give - So that they never thirst again! Be Saved Today!