

## Series: The Gospel of John

### Day 5: Believe the powerful voice, be healed and live to meet the Lord

#### Prayer

O God, You sent Your Son, the Word, as Your final and decisive message. Help us to listen to His mighty voice today. We confess Lord, that we have heard so many services, but still do not listen. You call, but we do not hear.

Thank You that you are still working to restore the eternal Sabbath rest for us. That is why today I pray for those who are sick and lame, but even more, O Lord, for those who are physically healthy but mentally sick and lame. Let them hear Your mighty voice: Arise and walk! Yes, even more! Rise and come to Me on the clouds!

Amen

#### Introduction

We are busy with the Gospel of John and our aim is to do 21 devotions, one for each chapter, if it is God's will. Today we are at day 5: The mighty voice of Jesus Christ.

#### The first four days...

In the first four days we have heard who Jesus is so that we can believe and live. We saw that Jesus is God's final and decisive message to us. He is the Son of God but also God himself. Some didn't believe and therefore John moved on and with Nikodemus he taught us about being born again. He taught us about the living water with the Samaritan Woman. Now we are walking into Chapter 5. Let us read.

#### Chapter 5

*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.**

*5 One man was there  
who had been *an invalid for thirty-eight years.**

*6 When Jesus  
*saw* him lying there  
*and knew*  
that he had already been there a long time,*

He sees all these things and He knows...

*he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"*

*7 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."*

*8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."*

*9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.*

John said that he tells us about these signs, there where many others, but he only tells us about seven signs in this book, that we may believe. Here we find the sign – He speaks, we hear His mighty voice and then the man is healed. Truly, we see and we can believe. But still we wonder, such an emphasis was placed on the multitude lying there – the blind, lame and paralyzed – but Jesus only heals one.

Wouldn't our faith increase even more if He healed all of them? But the Lord didn't work that way in this gospel. He comes to one man, Nicodemus and He teaches him about being born again. He walks all the way to Samaria for one appointment at 12:00 with a Samaritan woman at a well and He teaches her about living water. She spreads the word and a whole town comes to salvation.

In this chapter, this miracle is one verse long, verse 9. This tells us this is not the highlight yet, yes, it is a highlight in this chapter, but it is not the pinnacle of this chapter. We will have to read further to see where the pinnacle of this chapter is. Let us read further

*Now that day was the Sabbath.*

*10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed,*

*"It is the Sabbath,  
and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."*

...

It is as if John throws ice cold water on us. Here we see a highlight, we see what John wants us to see in this miracle, we want to believe and we want to live. We want to remember this beautiful story, but then it is the Sabbath. The Jews tell this man who is healed that it is the sabbath and that it is not lawful for him to take up his bed... And when we read further, we only see conflict up to verse 46 in this chapter. John, why do you tell it to us like this? We want to see the signs and miracles and we want to believe!

In Chapter 2 the first sign was water and wine, and yesterday in chapter 4, I wanted to tell you about the man whose child was healed over a long distance that you may see and believe! But we didn't have time for that, we are in the next chapter already... But John does it differently. He tells us about conflict and it feels like a low point in the chapter, but he takes us through the valley to get to the pinnacle. We see another highlight, before we go further down the valley, but it is not the pinnacle yet, but we shouldn't miss it.

*14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple  
and said to him,*

*"See, you are well!"*

*Sin no more,  
that nothing worse may happen to you."*

Wonderful! The man is healed and he is in the temple.

Jesus is saying: "Healed man, something much worse than being paralyzed for 38 years, can happen to you. I have changed you, you are born again, live like that. You can have a different life now, to be honest. You already have a different life."

But let's follow the line in John's message in this chapter. He goes further and says:

*16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus,  
because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.  
17 But Jesus answered them,*

He explains to them, why on the Sabbath, why against the law:

*"My Father is working until now, and I am working."*

Elsewhere it says that the Sabbath was made for man. God rested on the seventh day and John 1 said that everything was created by Jesus Christ. He worked for 6 days, and on the seventh day they rested. Shortly after that we find the fall of man and from then on, God works day and night, 7 days a week to restore the Sabbath's rest for us. Jews, you who are asking me why I do this on the Sabbath? I do it for you, to restore the Sabbath's rest. But they don't hear...

*18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him,*

The words He speaks here upsets them so much that they want to kill him. Why?

*because not only was he breaking the Sabbath,  
but he was even calling God his own Father,  
making himself equal with God.*

He was guilty of blaspheming. He says He is God and the punishment for blaspheming during that time was to be stoned to death. Here we see instead of them seeing the sign and believing, they stand with stones in their hands, ready to stone Jesus. An explosive situation in this chapter.

*19 So Jesus said to them...  
"For whatever the Father does,  
that the Son does likewise..."*

He doesn't deny that He is the Son of God. A few verses later He continues and explains:

*23 that all may honor the Son,  
just as they honor the Father.*

*Whoever does not honor the Son  
does not honor the Father who sent him.*

He stands in front of people with stones in their hands and tells them: I am the Son of God and if you don't honour me, you don't honour the Father. Your religion is false, you don't see me as the Messiah who came. The fact that they didn't stone Him at this point is proof that He is in control of everything. Then Jesus speaks further and says:

*24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word  
and believes him who sent me  
has eternal life.*

He speaks to the people who wants to stone Him and He tries to get them to listen, that they may believe and live. In John 3 with Nicodemus we learned to look up, see with our eyes, believe and we will live. To the woman He said: Drink the living water with your mouth, believe and you will live. Here he says: Listen. Listen to my mighty voice with your ears, believe and you will live. With all your senses, listen to how I speak to you, listen to who I am, see that I am the Son of God, believe and you will live. And those who do that:

*He does not come into judgment,  
but has passed from death to life.*

If only you want to hear the mighty voice of God. What a pinnacle. Hear how He also says it to Mary in John 11:26:

*25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)*

How can this be? We see so many people die because of illness and accidents. How can He say we will not die? Verse 25 explains it even better:

*25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

Even though everyone dies on earth they will live. Because they have already gone from death to life. It is only passing through. Who believes in Me, though he die, yet he shall live. What a mighty voice of Jesus Christ: I am the resurrection and the life. Who listens to what I say and believes it will live forever. Wow, what a pinnacle, what a highlight...but this chapter isn't finished yet, we are still on our way to the top. He says:

*25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here,*

While I am here on earth...

*when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,*

Not only those who are spiritually dead, but also those who are physically dead will hear my mighty voice...

*and those **who hear will live.***

And that happened a little later in chapter 11:

*41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, **that they may believe** that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, **he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."***

The mighty voice of Jesus is heard by the dead and they come alive. What a pinnacle! But the chapter isn't finished yet, we are still on our way up. Because later in chapter 19 we hear the mighty voice of God saying: "It is finished!" And for three hours it was dark and graves opened... but we are still not there yet. The chapter continues, saying:

*28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming*

Here he doesn't say the hour is now – it is in the future.

*when all who are in the tombs*

All the sick and lame people I didn't heal now, who will be in the graves...

*will hear his voice.*

*29 and **come out,***

All who died will hear His voice and they will come out.

*those who have done good to the **resurrection of life,***

Those who were born again through Jesus Christ, like this paralyzed man, and for that reason lived a different life will come out and live

*and those who have done evil to the **resurrection of judgment.***

Listen to how 1 Thessalonians 4 puts it:

*16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with **a cry of command,** with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the **trumpet** of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.** 17 Then we who are **alive,** who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet the Lord in the air,** and so we will always be with the Lord.*

Think about it for a moment. The wonder, the experience, the pinnacle is not how it looks in heaven, but before we get there, we already meet Jesus. And then we will be with Him forever. That is the pinnacle of this chapter. All who hear the mighty voice of Jesus will

come out, they will stand up, they will live, they will meet Jesus Christ in the air and they will be with Him forever.

Don't you want to look up and see Him?  
Don't you want to drink and taste Him?  
Don't you want to listen and hear Him?  
Because then you will live with Him forever. Amen.

Let us summarise

Jesus saw him lying there and knew ... 38 years  
and said with a powerful voice:

Get up, take up your bed, and walk.  
and at once the man was healed

But then we hear it was on the Sabbath, and therefore not lawful...  
Jesus responded to the healed man with:

Sin no more  
and to the Pharisees:  
My Father is working until now, and I am working

They then wanted to kill him for making himself equal with God  
But He did not fear His life and confirmed He was the Son of God:  
For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise  
that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.

And then we hear how powerful His voice actually is, because more than just healing a lame man, He can give eternal life:

Whoever hears my word  
and believes him who sent me  
has eternal life:  
he has passed from death to life

And even more: He can bring life to the dead:  
The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,  
and ... will live  
to meet the Lord in the air,  
and so we will always be with the Lord.

Let's try and say it shorter:

The powerful voice said four things:  
Get up and walk ... and sin no more!  
Honour me as you honour the Father  
Whoever believes has passed from death to life  
The dead will hear and live to meet the Lord

So our theme for today:  
**Believe the powerful voice**  
**be healed and live**  
**to meet the Lord**

## **Reflection**

Today's passage is again filled with so many things to learn of God, the Father and the Son. What did His mighty voice tell you about Him? Take some time and read the passages again and write down the glorious things you learned. What are the implications for you? Are you the sick and lame man for 38 years or are you the one who is pointing out: But is against our church laws...?

## **Thanksgiving**

When you reflect what you wrote down, what thoughts of gratitude is the Holy Spirit stirring up in your heart? Where to does it want to overflow? Write down one, very specific, thing that you are going to do differently during today.

## **Prayer**

I will start with a short prayer and when I say Amen, you can continue praying as the Spirit guides you:

O God, we have just heard Your mighty voice. The mighty voice with which you said in Genesis 1: Let there be Light! In Hebrews 1: 3 we read how You maintain everything with that mighty voice. With that mighty voice you made a paralyzed man rise up and walk, but you also healed him from within. With that mighty voice You raised Lazarus from the dead. With that mighty voice You said: Let there be Light in our hearts (II Cor 4:6) and therefore we have already passed from death to life.

And when You return on the clouds, the trumpet blast of Your mighty voice from heaven will also raise us up, to meet You. We heard Your mighty voice through this miracle. We have seen Your glory, full of grace and truth. And out of the fullness of that, we have received grace upon grace. Because we can see now, we can drink and we can hear... You are the Son of God, we believe and we live forever!

Amen.