

# The Miracles of Jesus

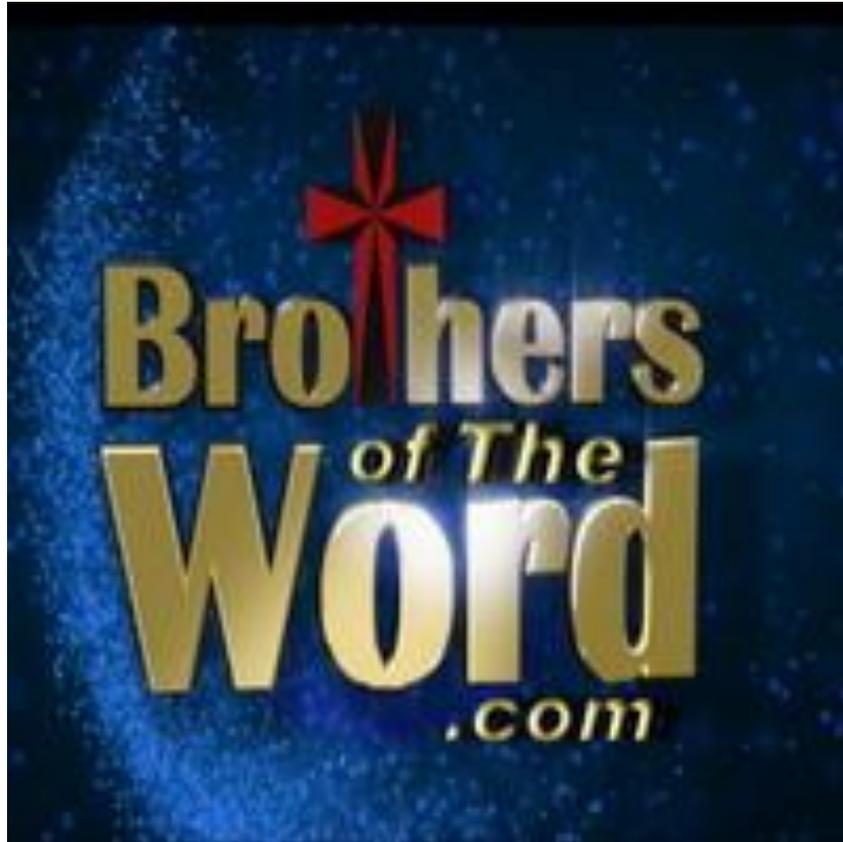
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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: In this common relationship, it is more important that God knows us, than Him depending on us knowing Him.

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And now for 7827, The Miracles of Jesus Part 12.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining to Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful joy and a delight to have you to come and spend time with us and join us. We're happy to have you. Well, we'd like to share just a little humor having locked her keys inside her car, a woman prayed to God for assistance. And just then, a man walking by saw the situation and he got her car door opened in no time. "Thank you, God for sending me this nice man to help," she exclaimed.

The man replied, he said, "I'm not nice." He said, "I just got out of jail for auto theft." "Thank you, God." The woman shouted to the sky. "You even sent a professional." Praise God. We're looking at the scripture today over the Gospel the John. The Gospel of John Chapter 5. And we are still on our Miracles of Jesus. We've been looking at different miracles of Jesus throughout the four gospels. So, we're on Part 12. The Miracles of Jesus Part 12.

And we start at Verse 1, Chapter 5. John Chapter 5:1, "After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And now, there is that Jerusalem by the sheep market, a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and trouble water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

C. Elijah Bronner: And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity, thirty and eight years. And when Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool, but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, it is the Sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

He answered them, "He that made me whole, the same said unto me, take up thy bed, and walk." Then asked they him, what man is that which said unto thee, take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed was not who it was, for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. And afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest the worse thing come unto thee."

The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. And therefore, did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

And once again, we're talking about The Miracles of Jesus. This is Part 12 and we're looking at this very fascinating account at the Pool of Bethesda by the sheep market. This is a market where they hail sheep, sold sheep and this is called, The Sheep Gate, or the Sheep Market. So, this was actually the gate where they brought them through. So, this pool was right by the sheep market, right by the sheep gate and I think, that it reminds us that we are the sheep of His pasture.

And He is the Good Shepherd. So, this took place right by the sheep market. So, it just reminds us we are the sheep of His Pasture and He is the Good Shepherd. So, I like that. So, the good shepherd was just walking through the sheep market. I like that. Everybody else like that? I like that. The good shepherd is walking through the sheep market.

C. Elijah Bronner: Maybe 10 years ago, Pastor James, myself, pastor Nathaniel and a few other acquaintances. We went to the Holy Land. And so, that was our first time in the Holy Land and our only time in the Holy Land. And we were there for about seven days in Israel. Then, we did a few days in Egypt. But while we were in the Holy Land, in Israel, we had the chance to tour all of the most notable sites in the Bible that the Bible records.

And so, we saw some interesting sites. So, we saw the tomb where Jesus was buried. So, we had a chance to actually walk in the tomb, look around. Man, that was fascinating. There had been some stories that certain people had seen angels sitting in that tomb because of its significance in history. This is the place where Jesus rose. And so, it's like throughout all ages there would be angels on guard to kind of watch over that place because of its special significance in history. So, the tour guide was letting us know that, there have been some reports that people had certainly seen angels in and around that place.

So, that was certainly one of the significant sites that we saw. We also saw Golgotha, which is Calvary. We saw Mt. Calvary where Jesus was crucified. That was quite a site to see as we looked over and saw this big mountain that looked like a skull, and there, they pointed out that that's where Jesus was crucified. And so, that was one of the great markers of history as well, very significant places we saw.

We went into a church that was supposedly the birth area where Jesus was born. And so, we saw some significant sites. We saw where God rained down fire and brimstone. So, we actually saw the land that still had hot coals from the brimstone. Now, I don't know what the locals just shoveled those out there and put them on the ground. But we actually had a chance to see the fire and brimstone. And so, we cover some very interesting sites.

But I would have to say that this is just me personally, out of all the places we toured, the one that was the most captivating for me and the most fascinating to me, was the pool of Bethesda. We had the chance to actually see the pool of Bethesda. And it was captivating to me because, of course, I had read the account in the Bible so many times, I preached it, I've heard other people preached it. And it's just the most fascinating account because all of these sick folks, all of these people are waiting, man, for their chance to get into this water.

C. Elijah Bronner: Because at a certain time, an angel would come down and stir the water and the first one that enters that water after it was stirred would be healed. No matter what the disease was, you could be healed of blindness, you could be healed of being crippled, you could be healed of heart disease. It didn't matter what the disease was, whatever the disease was, it was healed.

And so, it was always fascinated me that this angel would stir the water. We don't know how many times a year the angel came. They just said at a certain season, some scholars believe that the angel perhaps might have done it during the three feasts of the Jewish that they celebrate and commemorate it. So, we don't know if it was three times a year. So, we really don't know, but that's just speculation that perhaps it was three seasons, three times a year that the angel would stir this water.

And the first one in would be healed. And it's really significant because this was supernatural. This was supernatural. And it's really significant because you have to realize between the Old Testament and the New Testament, there was 400 years. And those were called, the silent years between Malachi and Matthew. Those are the silent years. There was no word from God for 400 years. Whereas no prophet, no miracles, no moving of God. So, it had been a dry season, but yet, this pool of Bethesda was almost like, a sign from God to say, "Even though there is nothing going on, I'm would still let a lot something happens." Just let you all know out that I am still alive and well.

And so, He had this one spot here, pool of Bethesda. He had this one spot. And actually, Bethesda actually means, in the Hebrew tongue, it actually means House of Mercy. That actually means, house of mercy, or House of Grace. That's what Bethesda means. There's one other word that it means -- but it means House of Grace, means house of mercy. It also means place of outpouring, place of outpouring. So, Bethesda, is full of Bethesda, it was a place, a symbol of God's grace. It was a symbol of God's mercy. It was a place of outpouring.

It's almost like, all of these people and the Bible describes, four or five category of people who were there and people that were paralyzed, people who had withered limbs, people who were laying, people who were blind and then, it just said, in general people who was sick. So, all the type of infirmities. And they had

a place to come, this was a place of hope, this was a place of God's grace. It was a place of outpouring. It was a place of outpouring.

C. Elijah Bronner: So, there was one place after 400 years of nothing from God. There was one place, one spot on earth where there was still a little sprinkle, there's still a little grace, there's still some hope found and they gathered in and they were waiving here for the moving of the water from this angel. Like I said, we don't know how often, it could be two to three times a year, but they were there waiting.

And so, this is a very significant place. But anyway, it captivated me because I knew all of these histories when we went there in the Holy Land. And so, in my mind, I had thought the Pool of Bethesda would basically, be like, a swimming pool. I thought it would be like a swimming pool and people just gathered around in lounge chairs. That was in my mind, that's the way I thought it. I thought it was something of that sort.

But when we got there and saw it, I was like, "Oh my God, this is nothing like what I imagined." This was a huge chasm; it was like a huge crevice in the earth. I mean, it was almost like the Grand Canyon, it was humongous. And I brought a picture, maybe if you have a picture, that's the picture of the Pool of Bethesda that we saw.

We have another picture if you can show the other picture. That's the picture of the Pool of Bethesda that we saw while we were in Jerusalem. But it was a huge, huge—in particular, this is not just a normal swimming pool. If you can imagine that filled with water. So, it was not an easy task just to get into that thing, especially if you were crippled. Because I had always wondered, why didn't they just go down and just lay on the edge and in the moment, they saw it moving, just roll on into it because that was one of the complaints this man had.

He didn't have anybody to put him in. So, I always thinking myself, why don't he just sleep on the edge and the moment he sees it moving, he just roll into it. But, when I saw it, I said, "I'll see if I really want to roll into that." That thing was humongous. But anyway, it was the most fascinating sight to me to stand over, the Pool of Bethesda and to see it, that's actually at the Church of Saint Anne, there in Jerusalem.

And they believed that that is practically the most obvious spot, that that was the Pool of Bethesda. And this particular pool was probably talked about, even back in Isiah's time. Isiah talks about a lower pool and an upper pool and the Pool of Solomon and all of that, but the waters flowed into this Pool of Bethesda. And so, they believed that's the same pool.

C. Elijah Bronner: But anyway, this is where this account has taking place, this House of Grace, Pool of Bethesda is a House of Grace. And when you think about it, we live in a world today that's full of all type of illness, and all type of sickness and misery and suffering. Aren't you happy that God has Houses of Grace? He has places of refuge. He has places of outpourings that people can go to. And so, that's why the church is so vital in the earth, because we become that place of hope, a place of refuge, a place of healing and comfort.

We become a place that people can be ministered to and people can be made whole, spiritually, and mentally, and physically. And so, the Church is vital because in this infirmed world that we live in, God still has places of grace, places of mercy, places of outpourings where His Spirit outpours, where his Spirit ministers, where people can receive ministry for their lives.

And so, this was a very special account to me personally. Here are few things I want to note about this account. Notice that, remember we said, the first one in was healed, first one, whosoever. So, there were no qualifications. You could be man, woman, boy, girl. Even if you didn't know what you were, that didn't matter. You could still jump in. All you had to do is be first, you did have to be first. You had to be first. And so, that did put certain people at a disadvantage. Because if you couldn't move at all, people who had a lesser infirmity could certainly beat you in.

For instance, I would outrun all of you all. So those who had little bit better physical capabilities, they had an advantage, because they can outrun. If you were there, and you only had a broken hand, of course, you can outrun somebody that was invalid.

And so, there were some disadvantages there and that's the position this man caught himself in. He could never make it down there because there was always somebody who had a lesser condition that beat him into the pool when he was trying to get

there. And so, that was only qualification, you had to be first, but it healed any disease. It didn't matter that disease.

C. Elijah Bronner: So, it was a whosoever and a whatsoever. Everybody says, "Whosoever" and "whatsoever". So, whosoever got in first, and now that says something to, as whosoever got in first, that speaks of first mover's advantage. First mover's advantage that lets us know we have to recognize opportunities, and move on. There is something called, a first mover's advantage. And so, it was even applicable at the Pool of Bethesda.

Now here is something interesting, He and the angels stirred the water, but He left the sick to get in on their own. The angels stirred at the water, but the sick had to stir themselves in order to get to the water. Now, that's interesting to us, because I want you all to get this parallel. I wanted to just show you this parallel. God has already moved and put healing, provisioned power, promises, He's already put all of that into His Word.

He's already moved and He has already put it into His Word. However, we have to get in His Word. The Word actually is a type of the water. The Bible speaks of something that's called, the washing of water by The Word. So, The Word is a type of water. So, God has put the provisions in The Word, but we have to get in The Word. So, The Word can get in us and guess what? It's the whosoever and the whatsoever. But here is the thing I like, there's no time restrictions. The Pool of Bethesda had a restriction, only at a certain time. But this healing that we now have in God's word through Christ Jesus, is at any time. It's available all the time.

To whosoever will believe, whosoever will come, no matter what condition you have, Jesus is now the Pool of Bethesda and this pool was a type of Christ as the type of the Messiah, because He's the Fountain of Living Water. He is the Fountain of Living Water. Remember Malachi described Him as the Son of Righteousness arising with healing in his wings. He is the Pool of Bethesda. So, the Pool of Bethesda was a type of Christ.

Now check this out, the Pool of Bethesda was at one time, it was used for purifying, it was used for ceremonial purifying. So, they washed, and did their ceremony in cleaning in the pool. Later that pool, became known for curative its powers, when the angel

would stir it. So, you have cleansing, purifying, and you have healing, which is exactly what the Blood of Jesus does for us.

C. Elijah Bronner: He cleanses our sins and He heal all of our diseases. So, Jesus is our modern Pool of Bethesda. So, this is a type of Christ. It was a type of Christ and He does it at all times. So, there is no restrictions placed on this fountain, this Living Water that He is, The Living Water. There are no restrictions, you can get in anytime. Praise God. Hallelujah, glory, glory, glory, glory. Whosoever, whatsoever at all times, He forgives. I'm thinking of Psalms 103, bless the Lord oh my soul, and all that's within me, bless His Holy Name. Bless oh Lord, oh my soul, forget not all His benefits, who forgiveth, all our inequities, who healeth, all our diseases. He is the modern-day Pool of Bethesda. He is the modern-day Pool of Bethesda. Praise God.

Now here are a few other things I want you to get, hallelujah glory, glory, glory. Now here's a couple of other things I want you to get from this account, Jesus approached this man. That's something we have not seen in any miracle we've looked at so far. Every other person came to Jesus, every other person has stellar faith. They did whatever it took. They had tenacity and they had perseverance and they had action and they have all these things, the initiative. Everyone else, the woman that touched Him of his garment, the man that was let down through the roof et cetera, et cetera. Blind, both of them males. All of these people had an active faith that took hold of Christ that they did something, they initiated, they called out, they went to him, they did whatever it took, they had a donkey determination. Not this one, it's the complete opposite. This one, Jesus initiates. Jesus goes to him. And lets us know that there are sometimes that God divinely will initiate things. God will initiate them. We always inspire to take action and to do things and show our faith and all of that. But there's something that certain that God will initiate in your life, or sometimes God will initiate something in the life of unbeliever, just to show that he's God. Sometimes God will heal a complete unbeliever because he'll use that just to get their attention to recognize that there's a God.

I mean, God will do it for somebody who don't even have any faith. God will initiate it and that's kind of what this was at the Pool of the Bethesda. This was a God-initiated miracle. Jesus went to him. He didn't call out to Jesus, in fact, he didn't even ask for him to help.

Jesus was walking around, the Good Shepherd walking around by the sheep market checking out the sheep. Jesus saw him, Jesus saw went to him, Jesus initiated conversation with him. Honestly, Jesus healed this man and the Scripture said, "This man didn't even know who Jesus was." This was God-initiated. This is the Grace of God. Remember the place of the Bethesda is called, the Place of Outpouring. So, it's called the House of Grace, House of Mercy.

C. Elijah Bronner: There are times will God will just show His mercy. God will just pour His Grace, He outpour Himself, He outpour Himself. So, that's what He did hear. So, notice Jesus saw him. Jesus saw him, he was aware of Him. Jesus actually knew him, because the Bible says, "Jesus knew he had been there in that condition a long time."

Jesus knew him, He saw him and lets us know, God knows us and God sees us. I don't care how long you been struggling, how long you've been in your situation, God knows it and he seen it. He sees you; He is aware of you, He knows you. It's interesting the way Jesus knew people that he had never met, but yet he already knew him and He was showing how God already knows us. He knows us.

Jesus was walking through town one day; a man is up to in the tree. Jesus say "Hey! Zacchaeus!" Jesus had never met him, he knew him. And Nathaniel was coming one day, somebody was bringing a thing and then Jesus yelled out, "Nathaniel!" and He was ride home, there's no guide. And Nathaniel said, "You saw me coming?" Jesus said, "No, I saw you long before you would come here. I saw when you were sitting on your backyard under a fig tree, I already knew you."

He knows us, He knows us. It isn't that good that God knows us? And I want you to get this, Jesus healed this man who did not know him, but Jesus knew him. It's more important that God knows us.

In this covenant relationship it's more important that God knows us than Him depending on us knowing Him. He initiated. He saw him, He knew him and then, He compassion on him, He worked to help him, and to get him healed. Praise God. Now,

why did he pick this one man up? Because this was five porches, five porches and sick full, He picked this one man up.

C. Elijah Bronner: Interesting, I want to just give you this little lesson in numerology. Man, had been there 38 years. Three represents God, because remember, three is the number of divinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Three represents God, eight represents new beginning. God will give us new beginnings, no matter how long we've been stuck in certain situation. When we feel like there is no hope, we feel like, there have been no change and I have to live with this the rest of my life. I'll never do this; I'll never get that. No, God is saying, He reminds us through this account, I'm the God of new beginning. Man, had been there 38 years, 38 years. God says, "I'll give you a new beginning no matter how long you've waited." You thought it will never happen, you thought it was over. That man probably thought die at the pool of the Bethesda, but God had other plans.

Now believe God chose him because he had been there probably the longest. He probably had been there the longest of anybody.

C. Elijah Bronner: And God probably heard the cry of his heart. God had probably seen his desperate faithfulness. God knew him and then, I believe, God did it because, he knew that if he got this man up, it would give hope to everybody else. Because this man had been there the longest. So, I believe, He would give hope to everybody else, because Jesus only healed that one man and then, Jesus slipped out of there, and left everybody else.

Now, here's what I believed happened. Now, this is not in the Scriptures. Like, I can't give you a description on this. This is my own thinking. I believe the Holy Spirit dropped the thought in my heart. This is my own thinking. So, go with me and your imagination just for a moment and it won't be weighed out and left here, I promise. Just trust me for a moment.

Here's what I think happened, I think when they saw this man get up, they realized he didn't get in the pool, but yet he already got healed. And I'm sure this man went back to the pool, and begin ministering to the others and say, "Hey, there's a man named Jesus, He healed, I hadn't been here 38 years, He healed me yesterday, let me take you to his next meeting." I believe they started emptying the pool of Bethesda taking these people to Jesus's meetings around town. Because there are a lot of accounts in Scripture where the bible says, "Jesus healed them all." There

were accounts in the Bible that says, “The whole city would come out to see Jesus.” So, they were bringing all the sick on stretchers and they would just lay them out, many of them touch to Him and His garment and the others, Jesus them all.

C. Elijah Bronner: I believe the pool of Bethesda emptied, because they found out, they didn’t have to wait on the moving of the water. The mover of the water had come to town. Oh man, preaching myself here, just stand on your feet. Oh, my goodness, you’re all lucky, I didn’t have my pair tonight. I would have preached about it, if I have my pair tonight.

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C. Elijah Bronner: Let us pray. Father, we love you. We thank you Lord for your unconditional grace and your mercy. We thank you for this place of outpouring, we thank you for new beginning. Thank you for knowing us and seeing us. Thank you for having compassion on You. We love you Lord. We thank you for being our life, our Healer, our Cleanser, we love you Lord, use us for your glory and in Jesus’s name, we pray, let every heart, say, “Amen, amen.”

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