

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### **Sermon Notes for July 17-18, 2004**

#### **"The So-Called Crime"**

##### **John 5:1-9**

What basic elements of a judicial proceeding do we find in John 5?

The first element of a judicial proceeding that we find in John 5 is the crime and the initial investigation (John 5:1-5).

John 5:1-9 describes the crime.

The alleged crime was that a man who was paralyzed had been healed on the Sabbath.

In 1888, an excavation revealed Bethesda to be near the present day church of Saint Anne in the north-east quarter of the old city (near Nehemiah's sheep gate).

A multitude of sick people were at Bethesda because they believed that they might be miraculously healed.

The last half of John 5:3 and the whole of John 5:4 were not the inspired words of John but a later addition by some well meaning but misled scribe.

We learn from John 5:5-9 that from the multitude of sick people at Bethesda, there was only one man that Jesus chose to heal.

The man Jesus chose to heal had been sick for 38 years.

Over the course of 38 years, this man had never been able, according to the beliefs of that day, to get to the water quickly enough to be healed.

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In light of his past failures, people would have given him a zero chance of ever being healed at Bethesda.

It would appear in light of his past failures that the man Jesus chose to heal also gave himself a zero chance of being healed (John 5:6).

This man had given up any real hope of ever being healed. This is why Jesus asked, "Do you wish to get well?" This question was meant to stir in him the hope that had long ago disappeared.

The paralytic in John 5:7 did not say he did not want to get well. He just could not see how this could possibly happen under the circumstances.

For the very first time, a true miracle had been performed at Bethesda and Christ performed it.

Do you want to get well?