

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2025

Saturday, 5/24 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/25 at 9:00

What Is the Greatest Ultimate Sacrifice?

The American Soldier to
Save the Physical Lives
of His Fellow Soldiers!



The Son of God to Save
the Eternal Lives of All
People of All Time!



Text: John 5:1-9 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: It's **Memorial Day Weekend** in the United States – A time to remember that we are **alive**, **free**, and **saved** *because others made the Ultimate Sacrifice!*

Jesus said: **John 15:13** "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

- **Approximately 1.4 million American soldiers** have died while fighting in our major wars. They hoped to return home😊, *but they died*😞: **Some** even chose to lay down their lives *to spare the lives of their fellow soldiers*❤️!
- **The Son of God made the greatest sacrifice** – †putting on flesh, †living in our place, and †laying down His life to make the ONE WAY TO HEAVEN❤️!
- Since we are **alive** and **free**, let us thank ♦**the Almighty God** and ♦**those who fought for our freedom!**
- For all who are **saved**, let us thank JESUS who made *the Greatest Ultimate Sacrifice!*

1. **Previously:** ¹ **After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.** // In chapter 4, Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, and then went north to Galilee, where He healed the son of a royal official. Now, in chapter 5, Jesus is back in Jerusalem.
2. **Setting:** ² **Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called Bethesda [*House of Mercy or House of Grace*], having five porticoes [*covered porches*].**
 - a. Sheep Gate: It was located on the north side of the temple complex, *near the pool of Bethesda*. Probably given that name because the sheep, *which were brought in for sacrifice*, came through that gate.
 - b. The Porches (Kretzmann): **"The Jews had built five colonnades, or porticoes, around this pool of water, to shelter the sick people from wind and rain."**
3. **Jerusalem Hospital:** ³ **In these porticoes [*covered areas*] lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed.**
 - a. The Four Words: They identify *the four categories* of the many who were suffering.
 - b. Why All the Suffering for Them and for Us? God warned Adam not to sin ([Gen. 2:16-17](#)); then, *when he fell into sin* ([Gen. 3:1-7](#)), suffering and death came upon all of God's creation ([Rom. 5:12](#); [6:23](#)).
4. **One Particular Man:** [*Verse 4 – not in early manuscripts.*] ⁵ **Now a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.**
 - a. The Man: He may have been ♦the most ill and ♦at that location for the longest period.

- b. 38 Years: A very long time to be ill. We should expect illness in this fallen world *but let us also call upon the LORD with every need.*
 - c. Life Expectancy (AI): “In Jerusalem during Jesus' time, a man's life expectancy was around 30-35 years. This average was heavily influenced by factors like high infant and child mortality rates, as well as the impact of war. While some individuals lived into their 60s, 70s, or even beyond, the average lifespan was relatively short...”
5. **Conversation:** ⁶ Jesus, upon seeing this man lying *there* and knowing that he had already been *in that condition* for a long time, said to him, “Do you want to get well?”
- ⁷ The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”
- a. The Water Stirred Up: Jesus ignored that topic. The water may have bubbled occasionally, *but it is unlikely that the water resulted in any healing.*
 - b. Jesus Knew: Being the Son of God, Jesus knew everything about the man, *even as He knows everything about you and me.*
 - c. The Man: He wanted to be well, *but – after 38 years – he knew he was helpless to help himself.*
 - d. Physical or Spiritual: Many have requested to be on our prayer list for a physical need, *but rarely for a spiritual need.* **Physical health – nice. Spiritual health – INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT!**

6. **Miracle:** ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” ⁹ Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk. Now it was a Sabbath on that day.

- a. Immediately: The man may have never walked in his whole life, *but the miracle **immediately** blessed him with strength and ability!*
- b. Miracles: They are spectacular, *but they do **not** eternally save*. God gifts us with salvation *as the Holy Spirit works through God’s word!* **So**, regarding our **unbelieving** friends, let us encourage them to ♦read and ♦think about God’s life-changing word!
- c. A Sabbath: God’s intent: Don’t work for personal gain *but focus on Me*. Jewish leaders: Keep all these extra laws *so you can save yourself*.
- d. Best: Trust in Jesus alone for heaven, *then gladly live out the Bible unto God’s glory!*

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, TY for all the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice! **We especially thank You for Jesus who made the Greatest Ultimate Sacrifice for our salvation!**