

Have you ever **seen** or **experienced**
a situation where **religious rules**
get in the **way** of
or are given **priority** over
compassion?

BYSTANDER
JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

Because of faith

Because of what
he saw and heard

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*We **saw** him with our very own **eyes**.
We **gazed** upon him and **heard** him speak.
Our hands actually **touched** him,
the **One** (Jesus) who was from the beginning,
the **Living Expression** (Word) of God.
The **Life-Giver** was made **visible**
And we have **seen** him. ...
So we **proclaim** to you
what we have **seen** and **heard** ...*

1 John 1: 1-3a TPT

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JOHN'S GOSPEL: SEVEN SIGNS

1. **The Wine Maker:** Six Stone Jars and a Nudge (John 2: 1-12)
2. **The Choreographer:** Long Distance Healing (John 4: 43-54)
- **The Rule Breaker:** It's Never Too Late (John 5: 1-15)
4. **Lord Algebra:** $5 + 2 = 5,000$ w/R 12 (John 6: 1-15)
5. **The Water Walker:** Faith is Spelled R.I.S.K (John 6: 16-24)
6. **The Eye Opener:** Never Say Never (John 9: 1-12)
7. **The Grave Robber:** Punctuating His Power (John 11: 1-44)
- **Easter Invitation to Believe:** What do you believe?

*Some time later,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.
Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool,
which in Aramaic is called Bethesda
and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.
Here a great number of disabled people used to lie -
the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.*

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

John 5: 1-5 NIV

Do you **want** to get **well**?

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When Jesus *saw* him lying there ...
and *learned* that he had been in this condition
for a long time, he asked him,

“Do you *want* to get well?”

“*Sir,*” the invalid replied, “I have *no one* to *help* me
into the pool when the *water* is *stirred*. While I am *trying*
to get in, *someone else* goes ahead of me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “*Get up! Pick up* your mat and *walk.*”

At once, the man was *cured*;
he picked up his mat and *walked*.

John 5: 6-9a NIV

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The *day* on which this took place was a *Sabbath*,
and so the Jewish leaders
said to the man who had been healed,
“It is the *Sabbath*; the *law forbids* you to *carry* your *mat*.”
But he replied, “The *man* who made me *well* said to me,
‘*Pick up* your *mat* and *walk*.’”
So they asked him,
“*Who* is the fellow who told you to *pick it up* and *walk*?”
The man who was healed had *no idea* who it was,
for Jesus had *slipped away* into the *crowd* that was there.

John 5: 9b-13 NIV

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The point of the Sabbath:
was to take a **break** from **labor**, not **love**.

This is what happens when **religious** people
forget or **ignore** the “**Why?**” behind the “**What?**”.

This is what **happens** when a **theology**,
an **ideology**, a political **agenda** or a party **loyalty**
takes **precedence** over people.

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When what's **best** for **people**
is no longer
what's most **important** to **you**,
you are at **odds** with **God**.

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Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him,

*“See, you are **well again**.*

***Stop sinning** or something **worse** may happen to you.”*

*The man went away and **told** the Jewish leaders*

*that it was **Jesus** who had made him well.*

*So, because Jesus was **doing** these things on the **Sabbath**,*

*the Jewish **leaders** began to **persecute** him.*

In his defense Jesus said to them,

*“My **Father** is always at **work** to this very day,*

*and **I too** am **working**.”*

John 5: 14-17 NIV

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Who do *you* think he (Jesus) is?

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*For **this** reason they tried all the more to **kill** him;
not only was he breaking the Sabbath,
but he was even calling God **his** own **Father**,
making himself **equal** with **God**.*

*“Very truly I tell you,
the Son can **do nothing** by **himself**;
he can **do** only what he **sees** the Father **doing**,
because whatever the **Father** does
the **Son** also **does**.”*

John 5: 18-19 NIV

If you want to know
what God is really like?

Jesus is saying ...

Watch me!

Listen to me!

Follow me!

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*“You study the **Scriptures** diligently
because you think that **in them** (text)
you have **eternal life**.*

*These are the very **Scriptures**
that testify about **me** (point to Jesus),
yet you **refuse** to come to **me**
to have **life**.”*

John 5: 39-40 NIV

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The you **beside** you
must take **priority** over
the potentially **flawed view**
you **carry** around
inside you.

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*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision
(obeying the law) nor uncircumcision has any value.
The only thing that counts is faith
expressing itself through love. ...*

*... For the entire law is fulfilled
in keeping this one command:
"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

The Apostle Paul
Galatians 5: 6 & 14 NIV