Rosh Hashanah
Maintaining **Hope** in **Times** of ***Hopelessness***
(John 5:1-15)

I. The ***Desperate*** **Circumstances** (5:1-4)

[1] After these things 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**, which is called
in **Hebrew Bethesda**, having **five porticoes**.

[3] In these lay a ***great multitude*** of those who were **sick, blind, lame**,
and **withered**, [waiting for the **moving** of the **waters;**

[4] for an **angel** of the **Lord** went down at **certain seasons** into the **pool**
and **stirred up the water;** whoever then **first,** after the **stirring up** of
the **water**, stepped in was **made well** from whatever **disease**
with which he was **afflicted**.]

II. The ***Divine*** **Healing** (5:5-9)

[5] And **a man** was there who had been **thirty-eight years** in his **sickness.**

[6] When **Jesus saw** him **lying *there***, and **knew** he had already been
a **long time** *in that* ***condition*****, He** said to **him,**
"Do you wish to **get well**?"

[7] The **sick man** answered **Him,**
"**Sir**, I have **no man** to put me in the **pool** when the **water**
is **stirred up**, but while I am coming, **another** steps down ***before*** **me**."

[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 the **Sabbath** on that day.

III. The ***Disapproving*** **Response** (5:10-13)

[10] So the **Jews** were saying to **him** who was **cured**,
"It is the **Sabbath,** and it is **not permissible** for you to **carry your pallet**."

[11] But **he** answered them,
"**He who made me well** was the **one** who said to **me**,
'**Pick up** your pallet and **walk**.' "

[12] **They** asked him, "***Who*** is **the man** who said to **you**,
'**Pick up** *your pallet* and **walk**?'"

[13] But the **man** who **was healed did <u>not</u> know who** it was,
for **Jesus** had **slipped away** while there was **a crowd** in *that* place.

IV. The ***Denunciation*** **of <u>Sin</u>** (5:14-15)

[14] Afterward **Jesus found him** in the **temple** and said to **him,**
"Behold, **you** have **become well; do <u>not</u> sin** anymore,
so that **nothing *worse*** may befall you."

[15] The **man** went away, and **told** the **Jews**
that it was **<u>Jesus</u>** who had **made him well**.

<u>Summary Observations</u>

A. The ***Persistence*** of **<u>Hope,</u>** in the **face** of **Hopelessness**

Now there is in **Jerusalem**…a **pool,**…having five porticoes.
In these lay a **<u>multitude</u>** of those who were **sick, blind lame, and withered**,
[waiting for the **moving** of the **waters**;..] (5:1-2)

B. The ***Presence*** of **the Lord** among the **<u>Sick</u>** and **<u>Desperate</u>**

The **Spirit of the Lord GOD** is upon **me**,
because **the LORD** has ***anointed me*** to bring **good news** to the **<u>afflicted</u>;**

He has **sent me** to **<u>bind</u>** the **<u>brokenhearted</u>,**
to proclaim **liberty** to ***captives*** and **freedom to *prisoners;*** (Isaiah 61:1)
(see also Matthew 11:2-5, Psalm 72:11-13)

C. The ***Powerful*** **<u>Healing</u>**

A **man** was there who had been **<u>thirty-eight years</u>** in his **sickness**…

Jesus said to him, "**Get up**, **pick up your pallet** and **walk**."
I*mmediately* the **man** became **<u>well,</u>**..(5:5, 8-9a)

D. The ***Punditry*** of the **<u>Jewish Leaders</u>**

So the **Jews** were saying **to him** who was **cured,**
"It is **the Sabbath**, and it is **<u>not permissible</u>** for you to **carry your pallet**."

But **he** answered them, "**He** who **made me well** was the **one** who
said to **me**, "**Pick up *your pallet*** and **walk**." (5:10-11)

E. The ***Priority*** of **Righteousness**

"Behold, **you** have become **well**; **do not sin anymore**,
so that **nothing *worse*** may **befall you**." (5:14b)

Personal Application
So **How** do we ***Remain*** **Hopeful** in **Times** of **Hopelessness**?

1. We ***Remind*** **ourselves** of the **Nature of God**

a. ***His*** **Lovingkindness** and **Faithfulness**

I am the man who has seen **affliction** because of the **rod** of ***His wrath***…

My soul has been **rejected** from ***peace;*** I have **forgotten *happiness***.
So **I say**, "**My *strength*** has ***perished***,
and *so has* **my hope** from **the LORD**…"

This **I *recall* to my mind**, therefore **I have hope.**
The **LORD"S lovingkindnesses** indeed ***never* cease**,
for **His compassions *never* fail**.
They are ***new* every morning**; great is **Your faithfulness**.
(Lamentations 3:1, 17-18, 21-23)

b. ***His*** **Goodness**

For the **LORD is good**; **His lovingkindness** is ***everlasting***
And **His faithfulness** to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

I would *have* ***despaired*** unless **I had believed**
that I would see the **goodness** of **the LORD** in the land of **the living**.
(Psalm 27:13)

c. ***His*** **Unfailing Promise** of our **future Hope**

"For I know **the plans** that I have **for you**," declares **the LORD**,
"**plans** for **your *welfare*** and ***not* for calamity**
to give you a **future** and a **hope**." (Jeremiah 29:11)

23 Let us **hold fast** the **confession** of **our hope** without **wavering**,
for **He** who **promised** is ***faithful;*** (Hebrews 10:23)

2. We ***Recall*** **models** of **Hope** and **Perseverance**

For whatever was **written** in ***earlier times***
was **written** for **our instruction**,
so that through ***perseverance*** and the ***encouragement***
of the **Scriptures we** might have **hope**. (Romans 15:4)

In **hope against hope** he **(Abraham) believed,**
so that **he** might become a **father** of ***many nations*** according to that
which had been **spoken**, "SO SHALL ***YOUR DESCENDANTS*** BE."
(Romans 4:18)

3. We ***Rely*** upon **the Lord** to **Renew** our **Hope**

Now may the **God of hope**
fill you with **all joy** and **peace** in **believing**,
so that you will ***abound*** **in hope** by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.
(Romans 15:13)

4. We ***Rest*** in the **"Living Hope"** of the **Resurrected Messiah**

"**Blessed be** the **God and Father** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
who according to **His great *mercy*** has caused **us** to be
born again to a **living hope** through the **resurrection**
of **Jesus the Messiah** from the **dead,**

to *obtain* an **inheritance** *which is* **imperishable**…
reserved **in heaven for *you***,.. (I Peter 1:3-4)

Closing **Exhortation** for the **New Year**
To **Faithfully *proclaim*** the **Messianic Hope**

For it is for this ***we labor*** **and *strive***,
because we have **fixed our hope** on the **living God**,
who is the **Savior of all men**, especially of **believers**. (I Timothy 4:10)

But since we are of ***the*** **day**, let us **be sober**,
having put on the **breastplate** of ***faith a***nd ***love***,
and as a **helmet,** the **hope of salvation**. (I Thessalonians 5:8)

…but ***sanctify*** **Messiah as Lord** in **your hearts**,
always *being* **ready** to make **a defense** to **everyone** who asks
you to give **an account** for **the hope** that is ***in you***,
yet with **gentleness** and **reverence**;..
(I Peter 3:15)