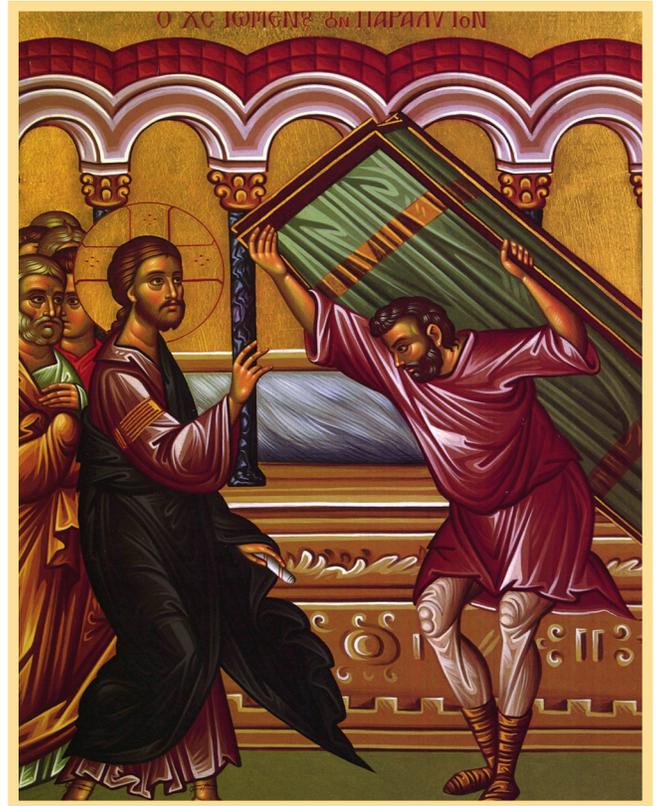


# FAMILY GOSPEL LESSON

John 5:1-15

It is apparent that, despite the hardship of physical infirmity, the greatest emphasis of well-being concerns the state of the soul and not of the body. The physical pain and suffering we endure in the current life does not equate to the importance of the lifting-up of our hearts and minds to God. Jesus Christ instructs the newly-healed man to “Sin no more, lest a worst thing come upon you.” What is worse than being paralyzed for 38 years? Spiritual paralysis! As the paralytic, we need to ask Christ to heal us of the paralysis in our lives—the paralysis that keeps us from moving closer to Him!

Recent excavations in Jerusalem have unearthed this pool, used for cleaning the sheep to be used for sacrifice at the temple, including its five porches. Certain Fathers of the Church equate the five porches with the five senses that can act as the doors of the passions, which in turn are the cause of our spiritual sicknesses: taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing.



## For Consideration

- What happens in this Gospel reading?
- Why does Jesus ask the paralyzed man, “Do you want to be made well?”
- What does this Gospel passage mean for our lives?

# TO DO TOGETHER

## The Power of Prayer

Make a list of family members and friends who are in need of prayers. Also, check with your parish priest for additional names to be included. Make a habit of using this list during your prayer time.

## Rise and Walk

Look up the definition of the word “paralyze”. As a family, make a list of things that can “paralyze” us in our lives. Discuss how we can heal our paralysis through God--just as the paralytic did in the Gospel.

## I Have No Man

Many ill and lonely individuals “have no man.” Be a servant of God by visiting and/or helping those who need companionship and help. For example, see if there is a person at your parish who is elderly or has special needs and could use your assistance, either with simple companionship or aiding with a simple household chore.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*As of old You did raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by your Godlike care and might, raise up my soul which is paralyzed by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that, being saved, I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Your dominion and might.*

*-Kontakion of the Paralytic*

## FINAL THOUGHT

God in His very benevolence, often allows misfortunes to befall even the righteous, so that He may, in this way, manifest to others the latent faith hidden in Him.

-St. John of Damascus

