



Is That In The Bible?

Sermon Notes

The
CHOSEN

Title

- Getting Off The Ground

Points:

- Identifying false assumptions
- Asking hard questions
- Listening to the right voices
- Doing scary things
- Making different choices

Introduction

Have you ever felt stuck? Like you are never going to get through what you are facing, or back to happiness?

If so, take heart! And get ready to rise up.

Hello, welcome to church.

We have come to the set of *The Chosen* to ask: **Is That in the Bible?**

Dallas and Amanda Jenkins (show creators) want those who watch to look into the Gospels—not stop at the show and treat it like *Chosen 3:16*—but actually dig into Scripture and be disciplined.

Their dream is for the show to help build the Church.

That’s what we’re doing.

Let's watch a clip from Season 2, Episode 4: *The Perfect Opportunity*.
(Play Clip)

The message is called **Getting Off the Ground...**

In Jesus' name, you can do just that.

No matter what's holding your heart down.

Scripture

- John 5:1-15

Overview

- This is a huge moment.
- It's the first time Jesus has ever directly told anyone that He is the Messiah.
- Everything about this moment is designed to raise eyebrows and shock — exactly what the Savior wanted and what the world desperately needed.
- He's a different kind of King and His is a different kind of Kingdom.

From Screen to Scripture

(3 containers: Biblical Information, Church Tradition, Creative Imagination)

This is a complex one, because even in what we just read, there are details that are not in every transcript of the Bible.

The legend of the moving waters and needing to be first isn't in every copy of Scripture.

Oh no! How do we trust?

This should actually make you trust the historicity of the New Testament **more**, not less.

- The majority of the NT was finished within ~70 years after Christ's resurrection.
- There are 5,000+ manuscript copies that are 99% identical— not diverging on any doctrinal issue of significance.

All manuscripts agree that the man was healed by Jesus.

Not every copy contains details about an angel's superstitious belief— likely with pagan overtones (Greek Asclepius sanctuaries).

They may have been added later to clarify the legend.

Though in the moment the legend was likely widely known, later manuscripts may have included it as an explanatory detail.

Same with:

- Jesus writing in the sand (John 8)
- The last 12 verses of Mark 16

Some of these may be instances where historical tradition ended up in biblical information.

The fact that these things are noted gives us full disclosure, not to build major doctrine on them.

This should give confidence, not doubt, because the data is right there in the Bible for you.

Creative License in the Episode

- The backstory: how he was injured, his brother being Simon the Zealot, the name Jesse.
- Jesus witnessing crucifixion: historically accurate but not explicitly in Scripture.

- These are artistic choices—not Scripture—but beautiful and likely.

But the healing itself is **pure Gospel**, as you just read.

Big Idea

This text has much to teach us. Whatever way we are pinned down, we can be set free.

The believer's whole life is about getting off the ground.

- Low-to-high tennis
- **Colossians 3**: Set your mind on things above.
- **Romans 7**: The loop of sin — thanks be to Jesus Christ!
- Earth to heaven when you die.

All of us have an area where we are held down.

Message Points

1. Identifying False Assumptions

- The man believed: "I have to get to the water to be healed."
- In our lives: "If I had ____, then I would be ____."
 - If I had this job, I'd be happy.
 - I'm not pleasant now because I didn't get the promotion.
 - I'm not kind because of how I was raised.
- We come into agreement with things that are not true.
- The man thought the pool was the solution—but Jesus knew it was the problem.
- His eyes were on the pool, the water, the bubbles, other people—not Jesus.

Jesus doesn't **have** what you need—He is what you need.

Jesus has **living water**. Wherever He is, there is healing.

2. Asking Hard Questions

- Jesus asks: "**Do you want to be made well?**" (*John 5:6*)
- He doesn't speak to ability, but to **desire**.
- Not everyone who is down wants to get up.

- Possible to develop an **addiction to your affliction**.
- You can tolerate dysfunction so long it feels normal.
- You accept your lot in life because it justifies your behavior.
- **Disappointment** makes the heart sick.
- Jesus can't take you somewhere **new** if you like where you **are**.

Big Thought: *You can't be well against your will.*

- Satan's most powerful deception: "Tomorrow!"
- "God, make me chaste... but not yet." — Augustine
- God waits to be wanted.

3. Doing Scary Things

1st scary thing: *Not making excuses.*

- Man responds: "I have no man to put me into the pool..." (John 5:7)
- If you insist on passing the buck, you'll stay stuck.
 - I have no one.
 - I would be well, but they...
 - Someone is out to get me.
 - The system isn't fair.

2nd scary thing: *Getting up.*

- What Jesus calls you to, He gives you the strength to do.
- **Ephesians 4:7** — *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

4. Listening to the Right Voices

- It was the **Sabbath** — not a biblical violation, but a violation of **rabbinical interpretation**.
- Instant demerit in religious eyes.
- They'd rather he remain crippled than break tradition.
- On *Caiaphas' House* set — represented the institution.
- He had to **block out their critical voices**.
- The **moved mat** was important.
 - Saved space near others believing in water.
 - He wasn't coming back.
- The 5 porches were full of people just like him.
- You can't live past the level of your friends.
- Victim mentality -> Victim identity -> Victim community -> Victim destiny.
- Who you sit with dictates who you become.

- “Show me your friends, I’ll show you your future.” — Pastor Craig Groeschel
- If he stayed there, it would be easy to be sucked back down.

5. Making Different Choices

- **John 5:14** — “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”
- Not all disease/consequence is caused by sin—but sometimes it is.
- **What you do with liberty can lead to captivity.**
- Jesus set him free—but there was a danger of **relapse**.
 - A new start must be followed by a new **plan**.
 - New crew
 - New habits
 - Better choices
- It doesn’t matter how good the seed is if:
 - It doesn’t take root
 - Weeds are allowed to grow
 - Birds aren’t shooed away
- **Proverbs 26:11** — *A foolish person who does the same foolish things again is like a dog that returns to where it has thrown up.*
- Jesus set you free so you could **stay** free.
- You must **take care of your miracles**.

Closing Thought

- **What you are cured from that you now get to carry?**
- **The mat** — after you’ve been healed, you carry a story.
- A reminder of where he was when Jesus found him.
- A souvenir of the powerful work God had done—to strengthen him for the next one.
- **Doggie Bags** — a lunch of breadcrumbs for the storm.
- **David’s bear tooth necklace** — *testimony!*
- What excuse are you holding onto that Jesus is calling you to drop?
- He doesn’t *have* the cure — **He is the cure**.
- Like the last line of the clip we watched: That life is over, Everything changes now.