



Why Does This Keep Happening to Me?

June 28-July 4, 2026

READ [JOHN 5:1-18](#).

POOL AT THE SHEEP GATE

The pool at the Sheep Gate was a place of healing. Local superstitions held that angels would stir the water so that whomever entered the pool could be healed. But, only the first person to enter the pool after this “stirring” would be healed. The superstition seems unlikely, and it could have been that the warm spring was rich in minerals and was medicinal for people with joint and muscle ailments.

Regardless of the exact healing properties of the pool, people with all kinds of physical ailments would crowd around the water and wait for it to be stirred. When Jesus arrives, he proves that he, rather than superstitious beliefs or folklore, is the source of our hope.

Like the paralyzed man, we often sit beside pools of our desires: a promotion, finding a spouse, etc. These desires can either lead us to trust in worldly wisdom or into deeper trust in Jesus.

What do you desire more than anything else on earth?

What do you pray for the most?

What conventional wisdom or common practices have you trusted to deliver on this hope?

What can you do to put you hope in Jesus and his timing instead of trusting in conventional wisdom?

Dr. Evans said, “We can get so used to our pain, discouragement, and defeat that we give up—not only on ourselves, but even on God. Do you really want something different or are you so comfortable in your misery that you refuse to respond to Jesus?” Think about the question Jesus asked the paralyzed man this week:

Do you want to be healed? Talk to Jesus about your answer.