

# John 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

## Analysis

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'In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.' The scene is desperate—blind, lame, paralyzed people waiting for an uncertain cure. The 'moving of the water' refers to periodic disturbance, superstitiously believed to have healing properties. Religion without power produces waiting, not healing. The multitude represents humanity's hopeless condition apart from divine intervention.

## Historical Context

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The belief that an angel periodically troubled the water (verse 4, omitted in some manuscripts as possible later addition) reflects popular superstition. First-century medicine offered little for such conditions. These were society's outcasts, dependent on charity, waiting for uncertain deliverance that rarely came.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this scene of desperate waiting picture humanity's condition without Christ?
2. What false hopes do people pursue today in place of true divine healing?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐν ταύταις κατέκειτο πλῆθος πολὺ τῶν ἀσθενούντων  
In G3778 lay multitude a great G3588 of impotent folk  
G1722 G2621 G4128 G4183 G770

τυφλῶν χωλῶν ξηρῶν ἐκδεχομένων τὴν τοῦ ὕδατος  
of blind halt withered waiting for G3588 G3588 of the water  
G5185 G5560 G3584 G1551 G5204

κίνησιν

the moving

G2796

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 15:30** (Parallel theme): And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

**Luke 7:22** (Parallel theme): Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.