

October 7 Answers

- 1) Jesus' third **sign** was the healing of a sick man at the pool of **Bethesda**. The man's sickness was the result of his **sin**, for Jesus later told him, "Sin no more, that nothing **worse** may happen to you" (John 5:14). This teaches us that one of the ways God deals with sin is with **sickness** and physical infirmity. We need to take sin as **seriously** as God does; otherwise, we may end up like the man at the pool. Note that Jesus healed the man in **spite** of his sin. This shows us that God is merciful and compassionate, not willing that any should perish. Jesus also dealt with the root **cause** of the man's sickness. This teaches us that God never leaves us in our sin. He forgives and restores, and then He **enables** us to live a holy life. When the Pharisees accused the disciples of breaking the Sabbath by plucking **grain** (they considered this to be **reaping**), Jesus gave them two OT examples of someone who broke the law and yet was blameless (1 Sam 21; Num 28:9–10). In both cases, the law was superseded by something **greater** which took precedence. In David's case, it was a matter of **survival**, for he and his men needed their strength to escape from Saul. In the priests' case, it was a matter of **duty**, for they were required to offer daily sacrifices in service of the temple. If temple service took precedence over Sabbath law, then service to **Jesus** took even greater precedence, for He was greater than the **temple** (Matt 12:6). Jesus wanted the Pharisees to understand that the Law was made for **man**, not man for the **Law**, and there were times when the Law rightly stepped **aside** to make room for something greater.