Introduction: Are you a superstitious person? Before you answer that, it may be better if you ask yourself; do I even know what it means to be superstitious? According to Webster’s dictionary superstitious is defined as “Over scrupulous (politically correct) and rigid in religious observances; addicted to superstition; full of idle fancies and scruples in regard to religion; as superstitious people”. Understanding this we can say that superstitious people live in a religious fantasy which has no biblical truth or foundation. Some may need an example to fully understand. We know in 2 Timothy 2:9 the apostle Paul tells us that women need to dress in modest apparel. Many churches turn that into a defined dress code that does not allow women to wear pants for any reason. They turn the word of God into a superstition. Jesus came into the world as redeemer of our soul, period. Too often the world and even the church is trying to turn Jesus into someone He isn’t. I expect this from the unregenerate, they don’t have the relationship with Him that the church does. But, there is no excuse for the Church to turn Jesus Christ into a superstition. The Apostle John uses this passage to teach many things, but I feel the theme he introduces is the beginning of Jesus’ rejection by His own people (the Jews); and how many would follow Jesus because of what they could get from Him without committing themselves to Him. Give the Lord your undivided attention while we look at “Setting aside Superstition.” Notice with me…

# There is a difference between fantasy and faith. V.v.1-6

The pool of Bethesda held a tradition that was a superstition which led many to live a life based on fantasy instead of faith (explain the history of verse 4).

Many today rely on spiritual fantasy to fulfill their expectations, rather than biblical faith in Jesus Christ.

* Fantasy or in this case superstition relies on works, wealth or wit to gain Gods attention!
* Faith waits on God! His timing, His method, His messenger.

Mar 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

# Faith in Jesus leads us to follow Him. V.v.7-9

* When we hear (read) the voice of Jesus do we take Him seriously enough to follow Him?
  + Jesus ask the impotent man if he wanted to be made Whole, not just healed!
  + Jesus commanded him to get up, pick up and walk! (no therapy after 38 yrs.) Jesus not only addressed his health He addressed the will of man!
  + By FAITH immediately the man was made whole!
* I cannot make promises for God, but based on the word of God, Faith will always do more for you than fantasy!

# Godly conviction leads to conflict. V.v.10-16

With every true moving of God the nay-sayers show up with their religious fantasy trying to discredit the miraculous work that has taken place.

* When godly conviction results in repentance, regeneration and redemption you can rest assured the devil will stir conflict. NOTICE: When confronted by the Pharisees, this man said it was all Jesus, Jesus told me to do it, the man didn’t mention he was not only willing he was wanting!
* The impotent man was criticized. But he was whole!
* Jesus was persecuted. But he continued to seek and save the lost!

Conclusion: So; how did you see Jesus before this message? Was He a supernatural superstition you use to get your way! Is He some kind of Genie in a lamp or a good luck charm? You and God know the answer to that. Also you and God know the answer to this, what change has the Holy Spirit convicted you of? Is Jesus truly your redeemer? Are you truly serving Him or are you just one of the crowd? Is your life founded on religious fantasy or redeemed faith? I would like for our musicians to come and prepare a hymn of closing and invitation. While the do this, I want to extend an altar call. Instead of being concerned about who will see you be concerned that God already knows your heart and life. He is calling you to repentance and a life of humble obedient service. If you have been saved, you are made whole, therefor your life should be a reflection of that. I have said everything God has laid upon my heart, the rest is between you and Him. If God is dealing with your heart will you come while we sing!