

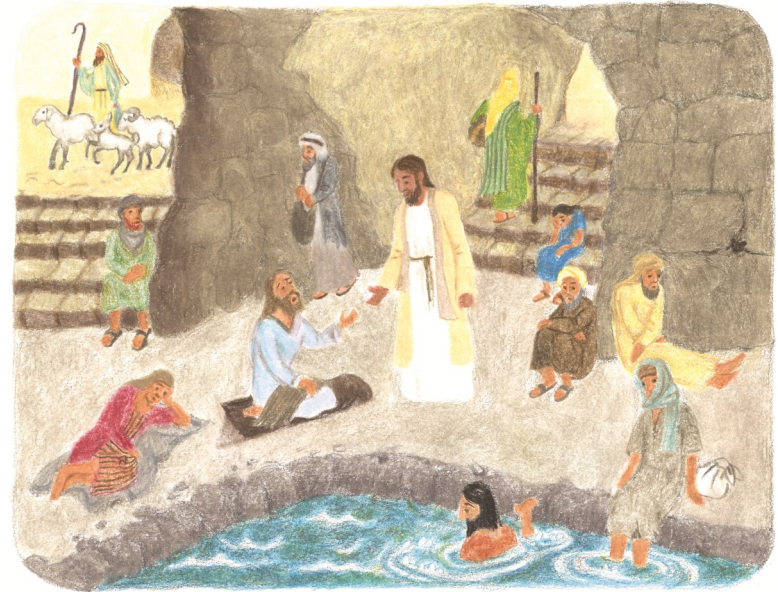
17. Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

17. Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

- a) Jesus knew the man had been there by the pool for a long time. His question “Do you want to be made well?” almost implies that the man did not really want it. Perhaps children could be asked to notice that the man had two excuses—he had no help, and someone always got there before him. Do we do that? Does a young boy say when asked if he wants to play soccer, “I can’t, I’m not good enough.” Or when doing math sums does a young girl say, “I can’t do it.” What she means is that she’s stopped trying.
- b) Jesus told the man to do something. “Get up!” Of course, Jesus gave him the power to stand up, perfectly healed.
- c) The leaders of the Jews wanted to find fault with Jesus for doing a miracle on the Sabbath day. Notice that the Jews even wanted to kill Jesus for doing such a good thing. They didn’t care about the man who was healed after thirty-eight years of sitting there, hoping.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

And Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there was in Jerusalem a pool, which is called in the Hebrew language Bethesda. It had five porches. In these porches lay many sick people waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever was first into the pool after the angel had moved the water was made well of whatever sickness he had.

And a certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, He already knew that he had been there a long time. So Jesus said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” Then the sick man said to Him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is moving. While I am coming to the pool another person steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up! Take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well and he took up his bedding and walked.

And this healing was on the Sabbath day. Then the Jews said to the man who was healed, “It is the Sabbath; it is not allowed for you to take up your bedding.” The man answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’”. And the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had left that place.

After this, Jesus found the man in the temple and said to him, “Look you are made well. Do not do wrong things, so that something worse does not happen to you.” Then the man left and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

And because of this the Jews wanted to kill Jesus even more, because He did these things on the Sabbath day.

John 5

