

Family Lesson – The Pool of Bethesda (John 5)

Level 2 – Stirring the Waters

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (a retelling of the story)

The Lord and His disciples were in Jerusalem to join in one of the Jewish feasts. The Jews had many holy days during the year. The people went to Jerusalem to celebrate them.

In Jerusalem there was a pool called the Pool of Bethesda. Once a year, an angel stirred the water of this pool and made it wavy. When the water was wavy, the first sick person who got into the pool was made all better.

Many, many sick people from miles around came and waited by the pool for the angel to move the water. One of these people was a man who had been sick a very long time, thirty-eight years. He had never been able to get into the wavy water first. The man was lying on a bed which was like a thin mattress with handles on the side for carrying him. He thought he needed someone to carry him on this bed to the pool. The Lord asked him if he wanted to be all better. He told the Lord he had no one to help him. The Lord told him to stand up, pick up his small bed, and walk. As soon as the man tried to help himself, he found he could do what the Lord told him to do. He was not sick anymore. He picked up his bed and walked. The Lord had made him better on the Sabbath day, the Jews' day of worship.

In those days the Jews didn't do any work at all on the Sabbath day. They didn't even cook their food. They made all they would need to eat the day before. It was against their laws to do anything but pray and eat on the Sabbath.

When the Jews saw the man carrying his bed, they told him he was breaking the law. He said that the person who cured him had told him to carry his bed. The Jews asked the man who the person was who told him to do this. The man said he did not know who this person was.

Later, the Lord found the man in the temple. The Lord told the man he was better now, and he should not do any more bad things or something worse might happen to him. Then the man went and told the Jews that it was the Lord who had made him better. The Jews were angry because they thought the Lord had broken their laws and worked on the Sabbath. They tried from then on to have the Lord killed for working on the Sabbath.