

THE MAN WAITING TO BE HEALED

Jesus went to a place where there was a pool with water that came up from the ground. Many sick people used to stay around the pool. They knew that the first person who went into the pool, after the water moved, would be healed.

One man had been sick for 38 years. Jesus thought about how long the man had waited. Then Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" The man said, "I don't have anyone to put me in the water fast enough; someone always gets in first.

Then Jesus said, "Rise, pick up your stretcher and walk." And the man did just that--he was healed. When the Jews saw the man carrying his stretcher, they were upset because he was doing work on the Sabbath. They told him to stop, and he told them that he had just been healed. They wanted to know who healed him, but he didn't know.

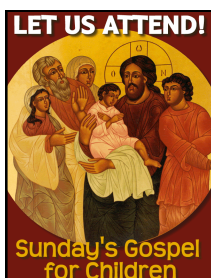
HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus went to a place where there was a pool. Where did the water in the pool come from?
2. Sick people stayed near the pool--why?
3. One man had been there for 38 years. Why didn't he get healed?
4. What did Jesus tell the man?
5. What happened then?
6. It is a blessing from God to be healed.



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Pre-12



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THE MAN WAITING TO BE HEALED

One Sabbath day, our Lord Jesus Christ went to Jerusalem. Near one of the city gates was a pool called Bethesda. Around this pool, many sick people lay, waiting. They were waiting for the water to move! You see, every now and then, an angel would come and make the water move. When that happened, the first person to go into the water was healed! So, the sick people waited and watched for their chance.

One man who was there had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw him, he knew the man had been there a long time. He asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?"

The man said, "Yes, I do, but I don't have anyone to put me into the pool when the water moves. Every time I see it moving and try to get into it, someone else always gets in first."

Then Jesus said, "Get up, pick up your stretcher, and walk." When He said this, the man was healed. He picked up his stretcher and walked!

Because it was the Sabbath, when the Jews saw the healed man carrying something, they told him, "It is the Sabbath! It's against the law for you to carry that."

He answered, "Oh, the man who healed me told me to do it."

"Who healed you?" they asked. But the man did not know who had healed him, for the place was very crowded.

Later, Jesus saw the man in the Temple and told him, "Look, now you are well! Don't sin anymore. I don't want anything worse to happen to you."

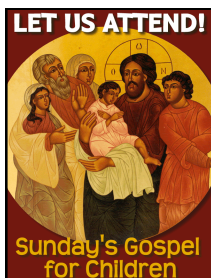
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was the name of the pool near a city gate in Jerusalem?
2. Why were there many sick people there?
3. How long was the man in this Gospel sick? Why couldn't he be healed by the water?
4. What did Jesus tell the man to do? Did he do it?
5. Why did the Jews scold the man?
6. The man in this story could have told Jesus, "No, I cannot get up, pick up my stretcher, or walk. " Those things were too hard for him to do. But, with Jesus' help and healing, he did them!
7. The next time you are asked to do something that seems very hard, ask for help! If you need to do it yourself and are not sure that you can, then pray and ask our Lord Jesus to help you. He will!



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THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

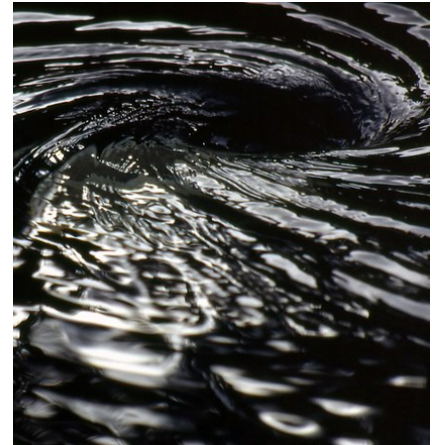
At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.

One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man

who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

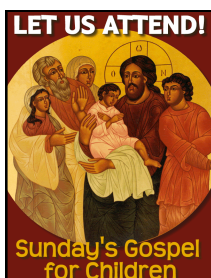
Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Describe the pool called Bethesda.
2. Would you have wanted to be there? Why or why not?
3. Why was the man, who Jesus spoke to, at the pool?
4. What directions did Jesus give to the man? Did he follow them?
5. What did the Jews say to him?
6. How did the man learn that it was Jesus who healed him?
7. God gives us directions for our lives, too. Name three ways that God gives you directions. The man in the Gospel followed Jesus' directions "at once" even though they seemed ridiculous. What about you? Do you follow God's direction immediately?



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THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Man, Jews

Narrator: At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.

One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him,

Jesus: Do you want to be healed?

Narrator: The sick man answered him,

Man: Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Rise, take up your pallet, and walk.

Narrator: And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured,

Jews: It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet.

Narrator: But he answered them,

Man: The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'

Narrator: They asked him,

Jews: Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?

Narrator: Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

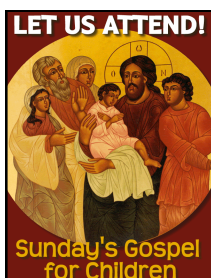
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Jesus: See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you.

Narrator: The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.



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take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

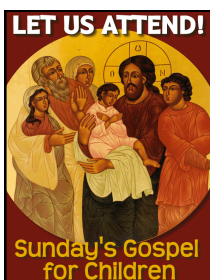
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the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Jesus tell the man in this gospel to do?
2. What would Jesus mean if he was telling you to get up, pick up your mat, and walk?
3. What do the Jews in this gospel scold the man for doing?
4. Do you think anyone would be upset with you if you got up and walked the way you described in question 2? Why or why not?
5. Do you think it was hard or easy for the man in this gospel to get up and walk? Why do you say that?
6. Is it hard for you to get up and walk the way you described in question 2? Why or why not?



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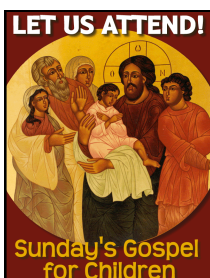
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who stands up and walks on Pascha? (yes, it is that obvious)
2. What does Jesus ask the sick man in this gospel?
3. What does Jesus tell the man in this gospel to do?
4. Could the man do this before Jesus' command?
5. Why do you think we read about Jesus telling a man to get up and walk three weeks after celebrating that Jesus got up and walked?
6. What does this suggest about what Jesus has done and is doing for us?
7. What does this suggest Jesus is asking us every day?
8. What does this suggest Jesus is telling us to do every day?
9. What does this suggest we need to do every day?



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