Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Print this page. Unscramble the words and circle the words in the story.

Jesus was in the city of Jerusalem for one of the Jewish feasts. In the city was a sheep market and beside the market was a pool of water that had five porches around it. It was called the pool of Bethesda. There were a lot of sick people lying and sitting around the pool. John writes that an angel came down at certain times and stirred up the water. The first person who got into the water was cured from whatever ailment he or she was suffering.

This man had been sick or disabled for 38 years and had no one to put him into the pool. He had no hope of being healed in this way. When Jesus saw him he said to the man, "Do you want to be well?" Of course the man wanted to be well!

He didn't seem to know who Jesus was nor was he aware of the power Jesus possessed. He just saw him as a man who might help him get into the pool, so it was not faith that would cause him to be healed. Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Immediately he was made well and picked up his bed. He got in trouble though because the Jews had a tradition that prohibited a person from carrying their bed on the Sabbath day. "It's not lawful for you to be carrying your bed!" the Jewish leaders said.

The man protested and told them the person who had healed him told him to pick up his bed and walk. Of course, the religious leaders wanted to know who had told him that. The man didn't know who Jesus was, so he couldn't tell them. Jesus had slipped away in the crowd before the man could learn his name. Later Jesus found the man in the temple and told him to not sin anymore or something even worse might happen to him.

Jesus made the statement, "My Father works and I work." When the man told the Jewish leaders the identity of the man who had healed him they began to look for ways to accuse Jesus. They wanted to kill him because he was making himself equal with God, which in fact he was, but the leaders did not believe in him.

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