John 5:1-16

Jesus Healed a Sick Man on the Sabbath Day

Later, there was another Jewish festival. Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool that is called Bethzatha in the Aramaic language. It has five porches. A crowd of people used to lie around among the porches. Some of them were sick, blind, lame, or crippled.

One man had been there for 38 years with his sickness. When Jesus saw this man lying there, he knew that the man had been there a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be well?”

The sick man answered Jesus, “Mister, I don’t have anyone to put me into the pool when the water stirs. While I am going, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your small bed and walk!” Instantly, the man got well. He picked up his bed and began walking around. (This happened on a sabbath day.)

The Jewish leaders were saying to the man who had been healed, “It is the sabbath day! It is not right for you to carry your bed.”

The man answered them, “The one who made me well told me to pick up my bed and walk.”

They asked him, “Who is the man who told you to pick up your bed and walk?”

The man who was cured didn’t know who Jesus was, because Jesus had slipped away in the crowd which was there.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple courtyard. Jesus said to him, “Look, you have been made well. Stop sinning, so that something worse won’t happen to you.”

The man went and told the Jewish leaders that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Because of this, the Jewish leaders were persecuting Jesus — he was doing these things on the sabbath day.