

# HEALED FOR BETTER NOT WORSE

BEHOLD AND BECOME

## By the Pool

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. John 5:1-3 (NLT2)

## Sick

One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” John 5:5-6 (NLT2)

## Jesus Says

“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.” Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” John 5:7-8 (NLT2)

## Jesus, the Healer

Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!” John 5:9-10 (NLT2)

## The Enforcers

But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded. The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. John 5:11-13 (NLT2)

## Jesus' Instruction

But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him. John 5:14-15 (NLT2)

## Jesus the Rule Breaker

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God. John 5:16-18 (NLT2)

## Ways to Faith in Jesus

- The right answer to Jesus' question: "Do you want to get well?" is always, yes.
- Obedience to God over traditions is wise.
- Living God's way is better.
- Speaking truth and acting in love by God's authority can anger people and get you killed.