

HEALING AT THE POOL

John 5: 1-18

It was the feast time again in Jerusalem. Because Jesus kept the law in every way, he and his disciples went to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. On the Sabbath, they took a walk to a place a short distance from the city. This place was called the pool of Bethesda. There were five porches around the pool. The porches were all filled with sick people. Some of them were blind, some were lame. There were people there with many different diseases and handicaps.

Day after day the sick people stayed around the pool. The days turned into weeks, then months, then years. The people were waiting, waiting for something very wonderful to happen. This was no ordinary pool of water, for once a year, one person was healed from whatever disease or handicap they had in its waters.

Once every year God sent an angel to stir up the water of the pool, all the people would scramble to get into the pool, for whoever got into the water first, was healed of whatever sickness or handicap that they had. After this the remainder of the people would once again go back to their waiting beside the pool for the next time that the angel would come and trouble the water. No one ever knew exactly when the angel would come, so they all waited, hoping to be the one that was healed.

So the years passed for many people as they waited for the next time that the angel would come. They spent their lives by the pool, because they were not fast enough to be the first into the water, and the healing of the pool was their hope for a better life.

There was a man on one of the porches who had been sick for thirty eight years. During all those years he had been laying on his mat, because he was not able to walk.

One day Jesus came to the pool. Jesus asked the man, "Would you like to be well?"

The lame man answered, "I have no one to put me into the water when it is troubled and so someone always gets in before I can."

Jesus said, "Rise. Take up your bed and walk."

At that very moment the man was healed! He stood up, rolled up his mat, and walked away.

When the religious leaders saw him carrying his mat on the Sabbath day they were upset. They had added all sorts of rules to the law of God, and this man was breaking their rules. They said to the man, "It is against the law for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day."

The man answered them, "The man that healed me told me to take up my bed and walk."

The leaders asked, "Who healed you?"

But the man could not tell them who had healed him, for he did not know. He had not even bothered to find out who had healed him from his lameness.

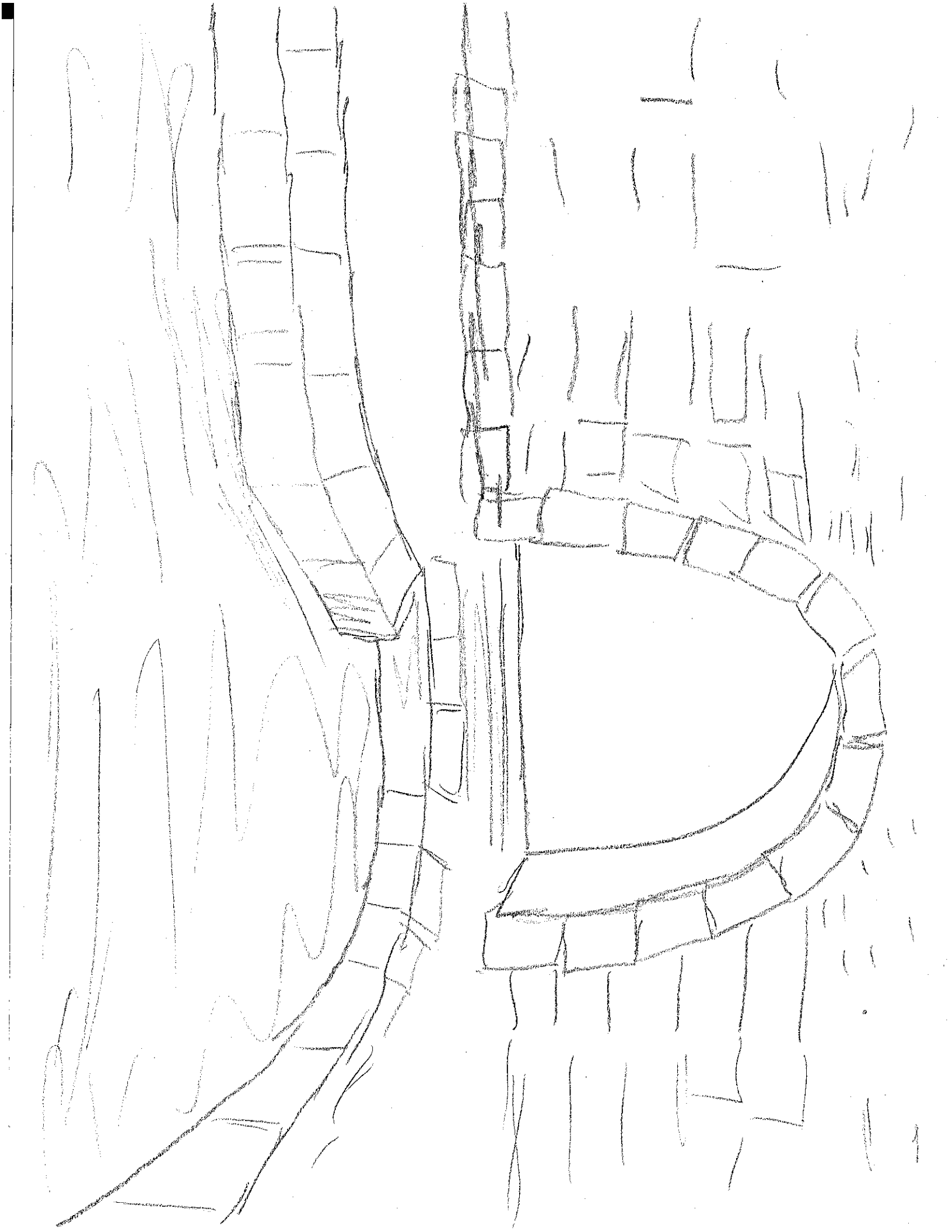
Later, Jesus met the man in the Temple. Jesus said to him, "You are healed. Do not sin any more or something worse will happen to you."

Then the man knew who Jesus was. He left the Temple and went to find the leaders. He told them that Jesus was the one who had healed him. The leaders became very angry. They tried to persecute Jesus and wanted to kill him, because he had healed a man on the Sabbath day. They were more concerned about their man made rules, than about poor, suffering people.

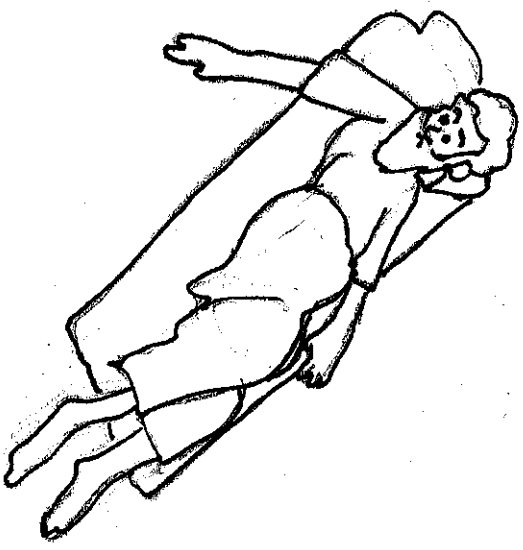
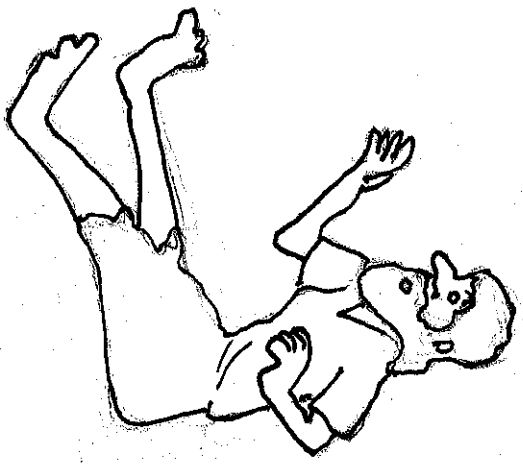
These leaders accused Jesus of working on the Sabbath. Jesus replied, "My Father works and so I work." Now these men became furious, not only because Jesus had worked on the Sabbath, but also because he claimed that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. They wanted to kill Jesus, but they could not. So Jesus went on his way and continued teaching. He said, "Those who do not honor the Son, do not honor the Father either."

LEARN: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which sent him. John 5: 23

1. Jesus is God come as a man. Those that refuse to believe that Jesus God do not _____ him.
2. If a person refuses to honor the Son (Jesus), is it possible for them to truly worship God the Father? _____
Explain why _____



1. Color background.
2. Color Jesus, healed man, and two sick men. Cut them out.
3. Use thin piece of material to make mat. $1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$
roll up mat about $\frac{1}{8}$ way.



4. Paste Jesus in front of arch.
5. Paste healed man with rolled mat in his hand (cut around front hand so mat will fit) on porch in front of Jesus.
6. Paste other men - one along wall, other along side water.

