

Everyday FAITH Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

Without Jesus, we all are crippled in sin, unable to restore ourselves. **Through Jesus, the disease of sin is taken away and we are granted eternal life.**

Bible Words

Bless the LORD . . . who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.
Psalm 103:2-3

Fun Facts

People believed the pool of Bethesda had magical healing properties. It was said that when an angel stirred the waters, the first person to go into the pool would be healed. The word *Bethesda* means "House of Mercy," and today's story shows us that true mercy and healing come not from a special pool of water, but from Jesus Christ.

The Big Picture

Even though the water at Bethesda did not have healing properties, God uses water in a special way when it is combined with His Word in Holy Baptism to bring forgiveness of sins, to rescue us from death and the devil, and to give salvation to all who believe.

The Case of the Old Bed: Jesus Heals at Bethesda

John 5:1-15

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast, he met a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been unable to walk for thirty-eight years. Disabled people gathered at this pool, hoping for healing they believed would be available for the first person in the pool when an angel occasionally disturbed the water.

Although the man put his hope in the water, the true source of hope had arrived. When Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed, the man thought Jesus would help him enter the water. Instead, Jesus told him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk" (John 5:8). At once, the man was healed!

As the man left, he met a group of Jews who scolded him for carrying his mat on the Sabbath, actions they interpreted as work on the day designed for rest and worship. They did not understand that by picking up his mat, the man gave thanks and witnessed to God's work in him.

A Source of Healing

When He commanded the man to pick up his mat, Jesus demonstrated that He is God, but the man did not realize who He was. He only knew he received healing.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple and revealed His identity. Jesus showed the man God's saving grace, which rescues us from death and eternal separation from God, a fate much worse than sickness or disease.

Like the man at Bethesda, we receive new life from Christ, delivered in the cleansing waters of Holy Baptism. In God's eyes, we are no longer infected with the sickness of sin but instead are holy and blameless because of Christ's saving work

Each day, say the words of your Baptism to remember that you are baptized into Christ. When you do, you drown your sinful nature and engage the Holy Spirit's help to live as God's child.

Prayer

Jesus, wash us in Your cleansing blood that, with the help of Your Holy Spirit, we might find healing and life in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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