

Bible Verse: John 5:8-9 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Last week, our story was about a Samaritan woman who met Jesus at a well and learned from Him about the Son of God sharing the Living Water of Eternal Life in the Holy Spirit.

Today we have two stories about people who are healed by Jesus.

Our first story is about a father whose son is dying. The father and his son live in Capernaum. The Gospel of John tells us that this father is a “royal official”. The man believes that Jesus can heal the boy, and he hears that Jesus is in Cana. The father sets off in the early morning and walks for 8 hours (that’s a long walk!) from Capernaum to Cana. He finds Jesus at about 1:00 in the afternoon. He begs Jesus to come back with him to Capernaum and help his dying son. But Jesus chooses not to travel to Capernaum. Instead Jesus says, “Go. Your son will live.” The father believes Jesus. He walks back home. On the way, he learns that his son started to get better at the exact same time that Jesus said, “Your son will live”. The father and his family spread the word that Jesus is the Son of God, who can bring healing even from another place.

Our second healing story happens when Jesus returns again to Jerusalem. Jesus comes to a special pool in Jerusalem called the Pool of Bethesda. This is a fancy pool, with a patio and columns around it. People believe that the water of the pool can heal. Many who are sick and hurt and paralyzed gather around the pool. They watch for the water to shake, and hope that if they are first to enter the shaking water, it will heal them. The Gospel of John tells us that one man has been waiting near the pool for a very long time. He hasn’t been able to move well for 38 years! When the water shakes, everyone else can move faster, so he can’t get close to the water. Jesus sees the man lying near the pool, and asks him “Do you want to get well?” The man explains that he has no one to help him get into the water when it shakes. Then Jesus says to him, “Get up! Pick up your

mat and walk.” At once the man is cured; he picks up his mat and walks. He doesn’t even need to get into the pool!

In these two stories, the “royal official” father and the paralyzed man both listen to Jesus and do what Jesus tells them. They know that their healings came from Jesus.

We try to listen to Jesus, too, and we also pray for His healing.

Wonder Question: Who can you think of that needs healing?

THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Guide Jesus to the crippled man

